**Whitingham Planning Commission**

PO Box 529

Jacksonville, VT 05342

Special Meeting

April 20, 2016

Attendees: PC Members: Brad Lackey, Phil Edelstein, and Kristen Breeden; WRC staff: John Bennett; Zoning Administrator: Gig Zboray; residents: Jenepher Burnell and Becky Green,

Brad Lackey called the meeting to order at 7:12pm.

Additions to Agenda: add visitor Becky Green questioning requirements for site plan review; discussion of Kennels.

Review of Green Real Estate Zoning Application to determine if all the information needed for a Site Plan Review was present. The Planning Commission feels the application was complete and Becky Green submitted it.

Review of Minutes of Special Meeting on March 17, 2016 and Minutes of Joint Meeting with ZBA on March 23, 2016. **A motion to approve the Minutes of March 17 and March 23, 2016 was made by Brad Lackey, seconded by Kristen Breeden, all in favor.**

Continued revisions to the Town Plan:

Economic Development page 60 Paragraph 1: Briggs Auto is no longer open to the public for business. Bemis Line Construction is now Riggs Distler. TransCanada is up for sale now so that name will probably change. The last sentence of the first paragraph should begin with “In addition, many wage earners…”.

Paragraph 2: cross out first Bed & Breakfast (only in Jville) and add B&B where it talks about both villages. There is only one general store now. There is no longer a restaurant.

Paragraph 3: add snow mobile trails (VAST) and Catamount Trail.

Employment page 60: section is mostly census stuff to be updated by John.

Existing Business page 60: John will search VT Dept of Labor to update this paragraph and Figures 12 and 13. John asked if we want to graph to continue from 2000 to 2016, PC says yes. Brad says the pie chart doesn’t need to be so big.

Agriculture and Forestry page 61: Delete “in recent years” in front of “Whitingham has seen growth”. Say small farms raising “livestock” rather than sheep, goats, etc. Correct the last sentence on page 61 to say “Much of the land that supported the dairy farms of the past is still responsibly managed and continues to support the farms of today.” Delete Table 12 on page 62 and the paragraph before it should say “Historically, the trend in ag….”. Kristen will work on this paragraph and on recommendations. John will add something about use of locally grown food products and value added forest and ag stuff.

Economic Development Strategy Page 62: looks good and so do the recommendations. Phil would like a reference to broadband in the strategy. Economic Development Group should be mentioned. Jen would like infrastructure improvements added as Recommendation 4.1

Policy 5 – Recommendation could be “to identify or get to know locations which are vacant.”

Other: Phil will look over page 19-20 Communications and Internet and Broadband Service.

Energy Page 64: John will try looking in the census numbers regarding Energy Uses (Figure 14). The remainder of the town is served by Green Mountain Power (no longer Central Vermont Power). Jacksonville Electric has 386 customers according to Jen Burnell.

Whitingham Community Survey Page 9: John will update. Brad has numbers written down that came out of the survey. Linda would have an electronic copy of the survey results – she should send to John. Brad gave John his updated copy of the Town Plan with the survey information written in.

Kennel:

The Planning Commission feels that Douglas Dix uses hunting dogs as his hobby. Gig should call Joanne Barboux at the humane society. People sell dogs all the time, when does it become a “kennel”. If dogs are contained and not bothering anyone, and no complaints received by neighbors the Planning Commission don’t feel there is any need to address this situation as a zoning issue.

**A motion to adjourn was by Phil Edelstein, seconded by Kristen Breeden at 9:05pm, all in favor.**

The next meeting is May 11th at 7pm.