

TOWN OF LYNDON
PLANNING COMMISSION
July 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes
Approved 7/24/19

Planning Commissioners: Sylvia Dodge, Susan Hanus, Ken Mason, Tammy Martel

Public Official(s): Annie McLean

Press: None

Public: Cathy Boykin, Marty Feltus, Kurt Hansbury, Brian Pickard, Sara Simpson

Sylvia Dodge chaired the meeting, which was called to order at 6:03 p.m. and introduced the Envision Lyndon 2020 Town Plan Health & Recreation Community Planning Workshop. Annie McLean provided some background information on the structure of the Town Plan and facilitated a series of breakout activities designed to capture community input for the Town Plan Update.

Annie McLean noted minor changes to the June 26, 2019 minutes suggested by Evan Carlson via email (not present). Susan Hanus made a **motion to amend the minutes of June 26, 2019 and approve as amended.** Tammy Martel **seconded the motion.** The Commission **voted 4-0.**

Annie McLean shared that the Envision Lyndon Community Survey had been closed to responses on July 1, 2019. Ms. McLean and Sean McFeeley (not present) have begun compiling the results. Ms. McLean will also begin incorporating feedback from the Community Workshops into the background information prepared by Commission Members on each section of the Plan.

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for July 24th at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: AMclean

HEALTH & RECREATION

Statewide Recreation Goals:

To maintain and enhance recreational opportunities for Vermont residents and visitors.

- *Growth should not significantly diminish the value and availability of outdoor recreational activities.*
- *Public access to noncommercial outdoor recreational opportunities, such as lakes and hiking trails, should be identified, provided, and protected wherever appropriate.*

Goals, Objectives, and Actions: What's the Difference?

Our Town Plan is required to provide: A statement of objectives of the municipality to guide the future growth and development of land, public services, and facilities, and to protect the environment.

It is helpful to think of goals, objectives, and actions as a hierarchy with the broadest goals at the top, and each subsequent category having increasing levels of specificity, with actions being the most specific. Aim to use clear language with active verbs like study, adopt, enforce, and create.

Goals state a purpose and destination, reflecting the shared vision for the community. They articulate an overarching principle that guides decision-making, providing a framework for the more detailed action statements. The goals within a plan must be internally consistent. Achieving one goal should not prevent or hinder achieving another goal. They should also not be so vague that their meaning is open to many interpretations. They should be both challenging and attainable.

Objectives provide targets for the accomplishment of goals. They should be specific enough that the municipality can determine when the objectives have been met. Effective objectives are SMART: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound. The time frame (long term, intermediate term, and short term) for the objective should be clear.

Actions are the next steps needed to move toward the objectives. These are concrete activities that can be described in specific terms. Actions should identify the responsible party, the time frame for accomplishment and any necessary resources to get the job done. Actions also include “programs.”

HEALTH & RECREATION

Current Town Plan Goals, Objectives, and Actions

The Current Town Plan identifies supporting recreational opportunities to meet present and future demands as the overarching recreation goal and provides the following objectives and actions to help achieve this goal:

OBJECTIVE: Support recreation opportunities to meet present and future demands.

OBJECTIVE: Encourage maintenance and upgrading of recreational facilities, keeping ahead of health and safety issues.

OBJECTIVE: Maximize the impact of the rich variety of independently run recreational programs through coordination of times and locations.

OBJECTIVE: Continue promoting and expanding Lyndon as a walking community in areas such as, but not limited to, College Road, Steven's Loop, and Broad Street areas.

OBJECTIVE: Serve our current and projected demographics with an appropriate mix of recreational opportunities.

OBJECTIVE: Improve communications about and marketing of recreational opportunities.

OBJECTIVE: Encourage establishment of community gardens for residents to encourage the consumption of locally grown produce and to furnish locally grown produce to Senior Meal Site, the food banks, the school lunch programs and a town farmers market.

OBJECTIVE: Continue to promote safe activities for youth in the Town that encourage wellness and recreation.

ACTIONS:

- a) Continue to support Path Around Lyndon in their effort to develop safe, adequate and cost-effective paths and trails in Lyndon. Efforts should be made to integrate PAL projects into planned highway or roadway funding projects as well.
- b) Conduct a recreation audit and gap analysis of Lyndon's many programs. These will help to determine where season and scheduling problems exist and will also help to identify under- and over-served populations.
- c) Develop a website that lists the many recreation and sports programs, activities and opportunities as well as important contact persons and relevant information.
- d) Maintenance of public recreation facilities should be considered when developing the Municipal Capital Budget Improvement Plan.
- e) Consider construction of an outdoor skating rink somewhere in town.
- f) Encourage landowners to keep land available to others for hunting and other forms of recreation.
- g) With better coordination we could open the facilities for family events, opportunities for inexpensive family fun, as well as opportunities for our elders.
- h) Support educational programs that promote healthy behaviors and lifestyles.
- i) Support farm to table to ensure access to fresh, locally grown foods.

HEALTH & RECREATION

GOALS/OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS – PUBLIC INPUT 7/10/19

- Community Gardens
 - Small scale gardens – John Castle Well Nourished Working Group.
- Coordinate recreation opportunities to maximize resources, facilities, etc.
 - Coordinate leaders of existing recreation groups, i.e. NEK Prosper in St. Johnsbury.
 - Look into State and Federal grant funding for recreation coordination.
- Encourage recreational development while maintaining the rural character of Darling Hill.
 - Review Darling Hill area zoning and explore creating a historic overlay district.
 - Pull people into Lyndonville for beer, food, shopping, etc.
 - Review Town policies for pop-up businesses and develop process for pop-up permitting and a how-to guide.
- Position Lyndon to better take advantage of economic opportunities associated with Kingdom Trails.
 - Re-brand Lyndon as “home of Kingdom Trails”.
 - Reach out to Kingdom Trails – What do you need/want? What can Lyndon do to help you?
 - Encourage Kingdom Trails to relocate hub to Lyndon.
 - Host pop-up events with kingdom Trials.
 - Loop RTC into conversation re: transportation between Lyndon and Burke.
- Create a recreational system that is inclusive of all people and benefits Lyndon residents.
- Evolve existing amenities/facilities, i.e. powers Park, and coordinate and publicize all recreation programs and opportunities.
- Become involved with NEK Gravel Rides Project
 - Join project committee.
- Sponsor recreational events including cyclocross and running events, i.e. Shoe Fly Series, and promote use of Kingdom Trails for running, snowshoing, etc.