

Isle La Motte Town Planning Commission

Regular Meeting

2 April, 2024

6:00 PM

Location: ILM Town Offices and Via Zoom

In Attendance: Commission Members Carmine Centrala, Neil Chaffee, Joel English, Laura Miraldi, Steven Reeve, Michael Simanskas. Advisor Emily Klofft of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC).

1. **Call to order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Carmine Centrala.

2. Administrative Work

- **Approve Minutes of 3/28 Meeting:** Michael Simanskas motioned to approve the minutes, as amended, seconded by Neil Chaffee, all in favor. Neil Chaffee will submit the amended minutes for posting to the town website.

3. Planning:

- **Town Plan Draft 4.2:** Emily reviewed Draft 4.2 including revisions discussed at the last 2 meetings. The following items were discussed:
 - **Flood Plan Map** – Emily advised that FEMA is currently working on updated maps and that all VT communities will need to adapt their plans to the new maps.
 - **Transportation Map** - Neil asked if VT State Rt. 129 extends to Main & Church Streets. Carmine indicated that, although the signage indicates that it does, the state considers 129 to end at the ILM side of the causeway as indicated on the map.
 - **Village Designation** – Emily reviewed a draft Village Center map and the Commission agreed with the general outline of the village center. Emily will submit the suggested map to the state for review. Acceptance of a Village Center designation will make the town eligible for state development grants.
 - **High Speed Broadband** – The new draft stresses the need for high speed internet for residents who work from home and home schoolers.
 - **Education** – Emily updated the draft indicating when classes were discontinued at the ILM School. Neil asked about high schools that ILM students attend. Data on this is not readily available as they do not all attend in the same district. The Commission will check with Sylvia to see if more information is available.
 - **Next Steps** – Emily outlined next steps, which include finalizing the plan, adding implementation actions, and considering an enhanced energy plan based on public outreach. Carmine encouraged everyone to review the plan thoroughly, emphasizing the importance of frequent checks.
- **Enhanced Energy Plan Draft 4.2:** Emily submitted a draft Enhanced Energy Plan and explained that addition of this to the town plan is optional. The Commission agreed in general that public input is essential before deciding whether or not to submit an Enhanced Energy Plan. The advantage of having an energy plan is that it will give the town goals (including the preservation of the town's rural character) additional consideration in the development and placement of any energy infrastructure. Having no energy plan will result in the town having less of a say

regarding energy projects. The discussion of the draft plan included the following topics:

- **NWRPC targets** – Regional targets are still being developed but will be shared with the Commission as soon as they are adopted. Most of the regional energy production targets are expected to be met via solar.
- **Current ILM Energy Data** – The draft Energy Plan contained several charts outlining ILM current energy usage and production:
 - Most of the data is based on State averages and is very general. Given the size of the town, it is likely that the ILM figures are overstated.
 - ILM electrical generation is minimal and consists entirely of residential rooftop solar. Most, if not all of this energy is being sold back to the utility (net metering) and not used as thermal energy.
 - Emily will add additional labels to the maps.
 - Several charts (E-6,7,8 and 12) need to be added.
 - ILM has no hydro-energy capacity.
- **Review of Town-wide Input Session:**
 - **Advertising** - Emily drafted a postcard notification for the session. The Commission approved the draft with one minor edit and Emily will provide it to Andrea for mailing. The postcard also contains a QR code for access to the truncated town survey. The session will also be advertised on Facebook and Front Porch Forum.
 - **Agenda and Presentation** - Emily provided and reviewed a revised draft session agenda and a draft PowerPoint introduction. The presentation included a Municipal Building timeline and a review of the Town-wide Survey results.
 - **Logistics** - We agreed that we should plan for 20-30 attendees. That would suggest that breakout groups would consist of 8-10 people.
 - Michael has not heard back from Sylvia regarding ILMCO regarding their possible participation. He will follow up.
 - We will plan for refreshments prior to opening the session to consist of coffee, tea, fruit juice and baked breakfast items.
 - Carmine asked if conversations regarding session logistics are subject to State Open Meeting Law. Emily indicated that, if discussions are limited to meeting logistics, they should not pose a problem.
 - Carmine will contact Commission members regarding setup, data collection and cleanup.

4. Next Steps:

- The Commission will finish planning for the Outreach via emails.
- Our next Regular Meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 7 at 6:00. It will be both in-person and on Zoom. The agenda will include a review of the plan document and input from the outreach.

5. **Adjourn:** Laura Miraldi motioned to adjourn, seconded by Michael Simanskas, all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM.