Town of SHELBURNE

Planning Board

MINUTES

Regular Meeting via Zoom ~ December 20, 2022

A duly posted meeting of the Shelburne Planning Board was held remotely via Zoom, on Tuesday, December 20, at 6:30 p.m.

Present: John Wheeler

Will Flanders

Tricia Yacovone-Biagi

Rick LaPierre

Seth Wilschutz

Administrative Assistant: Faye Whitney

Absent: None

Guests: Andrew Smith

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Chair John Wheeler, who noted the meeting was being recorded.

**MVP Program**

Andrew Smith is the coordinator for the greater Connecticut Valley region for the MVP program. He was invited, by Will, to attend the meeting and further explain the program.

Andrew said with the change in state government administration, the program will continue to go forward. Ninety-seven percent of Massachusetts communities have signed on. Shelburne is one of the few towns that have not joined.

The MVP Planning grant is the first step. It is open to all MVP towns with $1,500 o $3,000 awarded per plan. To join the MVP all that is needed is a letter of support from the Selectboard showing commitment to the project and identifying a project leader. After planning, action grants are open to MVP communities with up to $30,000 awarded per project. Normally a 25% match has been required. Andrew said that is now a 10% match. The deadline for planning grants is January 6.

A planning grant helps a town to define hazards, identify community vulnerabilities, develop community adaptation actions, define overall priority actions, and then receive MVP designation. After that, towns can apply for action grants Types of action grants include planning and regulatory updates, design and permitting, and construction.

The Board explained that designating a point person was Shelburne’s stumbling block. No one on the Planning Board or Selectboard feels they have the time. Andrew said FRCOG could do a lot of the work but a local person is still needed to shepherd the process.

Andrew said the process should start with a letter of support from the Selectboard. Then the MVP program could determine a grant amount and that grant money could be used to hire someone, such as FRCOG, to do most of the planning work. Andrew said town officials generally decide which community members need to get involved with the process. Consultants can then do research, set up meetings, write reports, conduct a public hearing, and submit reports to the MVP program.

Tricia agreed to write a letter of support for the MVP program and present it to the Selectboard for their approval. Tricia and Will agreed to share the lead for this project until someone else is found.

A motion was made by Seth, seconded by Rick, to have Tricia draft a letter of support for the Town of Shelburne to apply for a MVP program grant with a project manager to be appointed later, with assistance from Will and Tricia. Roll call vote: Will – aye; Tricia – aye; Rick – aye; Seth – aye; John – abstain. Motion passed 4-0-1.

The rest of the agenda was tabled until the next meeting.

**Schedule Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on January 3, at 6:30 p.m.

At 8:26 p.m. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Seth and seconded by Tricia. Roll call vote: Will – aye; Tricia – aye; Rick – aye; Seth – aye; John – abstain. Motion passed 3-0-1.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Whitney

Administrative Assistant

**List of Documents:**

None