

Town of Barre Planning Commission January 18, 2023

The Town of Barre Planning Commission held a meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road, Websterville, VT.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

In person: Cedric Sanborn, Terry Reil, Byron Atwood, and Mike Gilbar

MEMBERS ABSENT:

George Clain and Craig Chase

STAFF PRESENT:

In person: Cindy Spaulding

OTHERS PRESENT

Chris Violette

A. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Sanborn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. CHANGES TO THE PUBLISHED AGENDA?

There were no changes to the agenda. Mr. Violette announced that he had resigned as a Commission member and was only there to observe. It was announced that the State Senators Cummings, Perchlik and Watson have been invited to the February 15th meeting to listen to the Commission member's concerns of upcoming legislative bills that would take away the municipality's ability to regulate housing through the zoning bylaws.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1) December 21, 2022

On motion by Mr. Gilbar seconded by Mr. Reil, the Planning Commission approved the minutes of December 21, 2022 as amended. Vote 4-0-0.

D. NON-AGENDA ITEMS (PUBLIC COMMENT) - NONE

E. NEW BUSINESS

F. OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Continue discussion about the possible formation of an Energy Committee

Members and Mr. Violette discussed the formation of an Energy Committee:

- Advisory to Selectboard
- 3 to 7 members with expertise in energy field, suggest one member be a Selectboard member or Planning Commission member. After discussion, it was agreed to recommend 5 members.
- Work with the Planning Commission to implement the Town's Energy Plan.
- Focus on energy audit of municipal properties.
- Outreach to the community on weatherization and other efficiency efforts.
- Provide resources for renewable energy options.

This will be continued to February 15th meeting after Mr. Gilbar summarizes recommendations to the Select Board based on the discussion.

- 2) Continue discussion about whether to pursue village center designation.

Discussion ensued amongst members and Mr. Violette regarding proposing Village Center Designations: ask CVRPC to create maps of potential villages (East Barre, Websterville, Graniteville and potentially South Barre) for consideration, and the benefits having a designated village center. This discussion will be continued at the February 15th meeting.

G. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND BILL REVIEW

- 1) Review H.5 – A bill that proposes to study various issues related to improving and coordinating effectiveness between municipal, regional, and State planning.

Members reviewed the proposed bill as introduced and have concerns that the State is taking away local government control.

- 2) Review H.6 - A bill that would extend Act 250 jurisdiction to development within 100' of a stream above 1,500' and any subdivision above the elevation of 2,000'.

Mr. Violette stated that H.6 bill shouldn't affect the Town as most of its development is under elevation of 2000'.

H. FOLLOW-UP

- 1) Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission report

Mr. Gilbar reported the CVRPC members have reviewed and provided comments on West Central Vermont Economic Strategic Plan. He reported the report's goals were weighted heavily toward Chittenden County. The reason for this is that there were 135 surveys submitted by Chittenden County and only 15 from Washington County. The goals may have been different if there was more participation from Washington County.

He provided an overview of the creation of West Central Vermont Economic Development Strategic Plan, and his comments and concerns of the strategic plan and its other priorities.

I. ROUND TABLE

- 1) VLCT's weekly legislative update - Subject already discussed.

J. ADJOURN

On motion by Mr. Gilbar, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Planning Commission adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Vote 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Spaulding, Clerk

Cedric Sanborn, Chair

Mike Gilbar

George Clain

Byron Atwood

Chris Violette

Craig Chase

Terry Reil