

Town of Barre

Planning Commission

January 31, 2024

The Town of Barre Planning Commission held a meeting on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road, Websterville, VT.

MEMBERS

In person: Cedric Sanborn, George Clain, Craig Chase, Terry Reil, Alice Farrell, and Rodney Morin

Absent: Byron Atwood

STAFF:

In person: Brandon Garbacik

PUBLIC ATTENDEES:

Remote: Brian Voigt (CVRPC) and Will Pitkin (CVRPC)

A. CALL TO ORDER –

Mr. Sanborn called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

B. CHANGES TO THE PUBLISHED AGENDA

Mr. Sanborn asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were none.

C. NON-AGENDA ITEMS (PUBLIC COMMENT): None

D. FOLLOW-UP

1) Discussion wrapping up Village Center Designation applications (through ACCD) for the villages of East Barre, South Barre, Lower Graniteville, and Upper Websterville. Featuring special guest Brian Voigt, Program Manager for Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission.

Brian Voigt from Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) announced that he and Mr. Garbacik met with Mr. Richard Amore from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to discuss the boundaries of the village center maps in preparation for the Village Center Designation applications for the villages of East Barre, South Barre, Lower Graniteville, and Upper Websterville. He noted that Mr. Amore recommended changing the village center boundaries back to what was discussed during the October 5, 2023 special Planning Commission meeting, which featured a site visit through the four prospective village centers.

Mr. Voigt shared the updated maps he had worked on for the four villages that will be used for the submission of the applications for Village Center Designation through ACCD. Minor edits were discussed.

Mr. Clain asked why Mr. Amore recommended against expanding the map boundaries that the Barre Town Planning Commission proposed. Mr. Voigt noted that single-family residences do not receive benefits for being placed within a village center, and multifamily residences only receive limited benefits. However, residential properties are open to receiving the benefits afforded by the Neighborhood Designation Area, which is a different designation through ACCD's designation program. Furthermore, Mr. Garbacik mentioned that the Village Center Designation application guidelines note that areas primarily residential or industrial should not be included within the mapping boundaries of a village center.

Mr. Clain suggested edits to the cover letters for the applications to provide simplicity and clarity. The rest of the Planning Commission concurred.

On a motion by Mr. Clain, seconded by Mr. Chase, the Planning Commission approved forwarding the applications to ACCD with the proposed changes discussed. Vote 6-0-0.

E. ROUND TABLE

Mr. Morin asked about notifying property owners within the proposed village centers after receiving approval for the Village Center Designation applications. Mr. Garbacik responded by saying that Selectboard recommended holding a forum at the Municipal Building. Also, Richard Amore mentioned during the special meeting on October 5, 2023 that staff from DHCD can come to Barre Town to speak on this issue.

Mr. Garbacik announced to the Commission that he had an update to share with them after adjournment of the meeting that is unrelated to Barre Town Planning Commission.

F. ADJOURN

On motion by Mrs. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Chase, the Planning Commission moved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Vote 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Garbacik, Planning Officer

Cedric Sanborn, Chair

Alice Farrell

George Clain

Byron Atwood

Terry Reil

Craig Chase

Rodney Morin