

Town of Barre  
Planning Commission  
March 7, 2023

The Town of Barre Planning Commission held a joint meeting with the Selectboard on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road, Websterville, VT.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**SELECTBOARD MEMBERS:**

In person: Paul White, Norma Malone, Justin Bolduc, and W. John “Jack” Mitchell.

Remote: Bob Nelson

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Town Manager Carl Rogers, Assistant Town Clerk Jennifer Bushway, and Assistant Town Manager Chris Violette

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Chris Neddo

**1. Joint meeting with Selectboard (Mr. White called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.)**

**To discuss S.100 – Omnibus Housing Bill and the Planning Commission’s concerns the bill will reduce municipalities’ authority to regulate housing and significantly amend Title 24, Chapter 117, which is the law that allows municipalities to enact and enforce Zoning Bylaws.**

The House and Senate have bills that substantially limit current zoning provisions within Chapter 117 of Title 24. The Planning Commission has been following this closely. The Senate version of Bill S.100 is the topic of this agenda item. There are many provisions within this bill that are troubling. The Planning Commission would like to discuss these items with the Selectboard and ultimately produce a joint letter that can be sent to the Governor.

Mr. Sanborn stated that the Planning Commission has discussed S.100. This bill is designed to address the projected housing shortage by 2030. Local zoning is a major part of this bill. The State has mandated zoning requirements and to address parking requirements. Mr. Sanborn expressed these requirements work for urban areas but cannot be compared to what the needs are for Barre Town, noting the mandates will cause a loss of local control. Additionally, the parking requirements being proposed are concerning for Barre Town. Mr. Sanborn stated the Planning Commission also as concerns around Act 250, and the significant cost in permit fees. Mr. Sanborn recommends the Selectboard and Planning Commission send a joint letter to the Senate Committee.

Secondly, he suggested a letter be written to the Governor for his staff to review from a municipal point of view. Lastly, Mr. Sanborn thought it would be beneficial if someone from the Selectboard or Town Office testified on behalf of Barre Town. Conversation continued as Board and Planning Commission members shared their concerns with the bill.

Ideas were shared on how to ensure Barre Town is well represented. Town Manager Carl Rogers recommended a press conference to help get the word out about S.100. The Planning Commission will draft a copy of a letter to the Governor to be completed by March 15, 2023.

Planning Commission members left at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Spaulding, Clerk

**These minutes were an excerpt from the Selectboard meeting of March 7, 2023.**

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Cedric Sanborn, Chair

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Mike Gilbar

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George Clain

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Byron Atwood

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Chris Violette

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Craig Chase

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Terry Reil

