

Town of Barre
Planning Commission
August 17, 2022

The Town of Barre Planning Commission held a meeting and public hearing on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road, Websterville, VT.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

In person: Byron Atwood, Cedric Sanborn, George Clain, Terry Reil, Chris Violette, Mike Gilbar and Craig Chase

STAFF PRESENT:

In person: Chris Violette
Remote (video) Cindy Spaulding

OTHERS PRESENT

Remote (video): Clare Rock (Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission)

A) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Sanborn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked whether there were any changes to the agenda.

B) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 20, 2022

On motion by Mr. Gilbar, seconded by Mr. Atwood, the Planning Commission approved the minutes of July 20, 2022 as amended. Vote 7-0-0

C) NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT (if necessary limited at chair's discretion)

Mr. Sanborn asked whether there were any non-agenda comments – there was none.

D) NEW BUSINESS - NONE

E) OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Continue discussion involving exploring village center designation for Barre Town.
Guest: Clare Rock – Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission.

Ms. Rock from Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission provided an overview of the creation and benefits of a Village Center Designation. Highlights of the presentation:

- Program intended to assist in preserving the rural character and working land scape, conserve natural and historic resources; support development in appropriate places and invest efficiently in the public infrastructure.
- Village Center Designation is designed to support and encourage local efforts to revitalize traditional Vermont villages.
- Foundation starts with the town plan, identifying areas to be proposed designated village centers.
- Village Centers are **not**: a zoning district, an area designated for future growth or programs for single family residential structures
- Village Designation Centers **do not allow** for large amounts of undeveloped land for future growth. The designation is for existing structures/land within its boundaries.

- Benefits: Tax credit incentives for Historic, Façade Improvement and Code Improvement to the commercial property owners for historical preservation and economic development of a property.
- Priority consideration for HUD, Community Development Block Grants and Municipal Planning Grants.
- Application process to create a village designation center.
- Examples of Village Designations Centers and projects: Roxbury, East Calais, and East Montpelier

Discussion between members and Ms. Rock were the pros and cons of having a village designation center.

- 2) Continue discussion regarding forming an Energy Committee – Tabled to September meeting.

F) FOLLOW UP - NONE

G) ROUND TABLE

H) ADJOURN!

On motion by Mr. Gilbar, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Planning Commission adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Vote 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Spaulding, Clerk

Cedric Sanborn, Chair

Mike Gilbar

George Clain

Byron Atwood

Chris Violette

Craig Chase

Terry Reil