

Town of Barre

Special Planning Commission

June 27, 2024

The Town of Barre Planning Commission held a special meeting on Thursday, June 27, 2024 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road, Websterville, VT.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

In person: Cedric Sanborn, Alice Farrell, George Clain, Terry Reil

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Byron Atwood, Craig Chase, Rodney Morin

STAFF PRESENT:

Brandon Garbacik (Planner/Zoning Administrator)

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Brian Voigt (Program Manager, CVRPC)

Will Pitkin (Planner, CVRPC)

Caitlin Corkins (Tax Credits & Grants Coordinator, ACCD)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mike Gilbar (Barre Town Selectboard)

Robert & Terry Somaini (Business Owners, Village of East Barre)

Diane O'Hara (Homeowner/Resident, Village of Lower Graniteville)

Nancy Wagner (Homeowner/Resident, Village of Lower Graniteville)

Stefanie Kingzett (Homeowner/Resident, Village of East Barre)

Samantha Hiscock (Property Owner/Manager, Village of East Barre)

Kristin Baumann (Director, Aldrich Public Library)

Robert Farrell (Homeowner/Resident, Town of Barre)

Call to Order: 6:05 P.M.

Barre Town Village Centers Public Forum: The Barre Town Planning Commission organized a public forum to share the benefits of Barre Town's state-designated village centers that were approved for designation by the State's Downtown Development Board in late-February.

Upon the call to order, Mr. Garbacik welcomed the audience and introduced the panel of Planning Commission members and guest speakers from Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) and the VT Agency of Commerce & Community Development (ACCD). Then, he gave a brief background on what led up to the town pursuing village center designation status for the villages of East Barre, South Barre, Lower Graniteville, and Upper Websterville. He concluded by reviewing the borders of each village center.

Brian Voigt and Will Pitkin from CVRPC spoke next. They provided an overview of the purpose of the state's designation program, discussed 'smart growth principles', provided a breakdown of the current uses of each property within the village centers, explained the potential to apply for neighborhood development areas, and discussed some success stories of projects located within nearby village centers.

Caitlin Corkins from ACCD, who specializes in the Downtown & Village Center Tax Credit Program (as well as the various grants administered by ACCD), spoke about the tax credit program. She broke down the available projects available to apply for tax credits (historic tax credits, façade work, code improvements, flood hazard mitigation, etc). She also explained how the tax credits can be applied (either to income tax, or can be sold to a third-party buyer). Finally, she shared some case studies of different properties throughout the state that have taken advantage of the Downtown & Village Center Tax Credit Program in recent years.

The public meeting concluded with a question/answer session. The video recording for this event will soon be posted on the Town of Barre's website for public viewing.

Adjournment: 6:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Garbacik, Planning & Zoning Administrator

Cedric Sanborn, Chair

Alice Farrell

George Clain

Byron Atwood

Terry Reil

Craig Chase

Rodney Morin