

Town of Barre

Special Planning Commission

October 5, 2023

The Town of Barre Planning Commission held a special meeting on Thursday, October 5, 2023 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road and then traveling through the villages of Upper Websterville, Lower Graniteville, South Barre, and East Barre.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

In person: Cedric Sanborn, George Clain, Craig Chase, and Rodney Morin

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Byron Atwood, Alice Farrell, Terry Reil

STAFF PRESENT:

Brandon Garbacik

SPECIAL GUEST:

Richard Amore (Planning & Outreach Manager at ACCD)

OTHERS PRESENT:

W. John "Jack" Mitchell (Upper Websterville)

1. Visit through the villages of Barre Town to discuss the possibility of the town applying for Village Center Designation through the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD), featuring special guest Richard Amore of ACCD.

As part of the Barre Town Planning Commission's ongoing exploration regarding the Town of Barre applying for Village Center Designation for its historic villages, the Planning Commission held a special meeting featuring Richard Amore, ACCD's expert on their Village Center Designation program.

The meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. in the Barre Town Municipal Building, where Planning Commission meetings are normally held. Mr. Amore answered questions from the Commission members regarding the specifics of the program for approximately 45 minutes. These questions/answers included the topics of:

- Program benefits
- Village Center criteria
- Application questions
- Involvement of the regional planning commission
- Building/property eligibility
- Act 250 and Neighborhood Development Areas

After the Q/A session, the Planning Commission visited four villages in Barre Town that are being considered for Village Center Designation. These four villages were: Upper Websterville, Lower Graniteville, South Barre, and East Barre.

Upper Websterville – (Mr. Jack Mitchell was in attendance and provided a brief history of Upper Websterville)

Village does include: Lawson's Store, Websterville Post Office, Upper Websterville Playground, and multifamily dwellings in the neighborhood

Village does not include: Nearby quarries owned by Rock of Ages (industrial uses are not meant to be included in village centers), Barre Town Forest (too far away from village center), Websterville Baptist Church/Websterville Christian Academy (too far away from village center)

Lower Graniteville

Village does include: Graniteville General Store, Graniteville Post Office, Lower Graniteville Playground, First Presbyterian Church of Graniteville, and multifamily dwellings in the neighborhood

Village does not include: Rock of Ages Visitor Center (industrial), Quarry Hill Apartments (too far), Lower Graniteville Picnic Area (too far)

South Barre

Village does include: South Barre Post Office/Old Howard's Market building, Vermont Lavender, and multifamily dwellings in the neighborhood

Village does not include: Businesses south of VT-63 (most/all of the businesses in this area are industrial/automotive in nature, which does not meet the criteria of a village center), businesses north of Bridge St/Sterling Hill Rd (same reason), Hannaford's and McDonald's (newer buildings hosting corporate businesses; does not meet the criteria of a village center)

East Barre

Village does include: Almost all businesses on Mill St, East Barre Post Office, Last Time Around Antiques & Collectibles, Christ Community Alliance Church, East Barre Fire Station, and multifamily dwellings in the neighborhood

Village does not include: Crossway Auto Center (automotive), FM Auto Repair (automotive), East Barre Playground (too far), Hibbert & McGee (too far)

Following a tour of these villages, the special Planning Commission meeting ended at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Garbacik, Planning & Zoning Administrator

Cedric Sanborn, Chair

Alice Farrell

George Clain

Byron Atwood

Terry Reil

Craig Chase

Rodney Morin