

Planning Commission
Martin Memorial Hall
5259 Route 5, Ascutney VT
DRAFT of Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday July 13, 2020 7:00 PM

Planning Commission Members Present:

Paul Tillman
Fred Kowalik
Howard Beach
Tyler Harwell
Chris Whidden, Zoning Administrator

Online attendees: Nikita Lenahan, Julia Lloyd Wright

1.) Call to Order by Chair, Paul Tillman at 7:00 pm

2.) Agenda Review – July 13, 2020

No changes

3.) Comments from the Chair and Land Use Administrator

Chris Whidden wanted to note that he would be going to the Select Board to discuss obtaining noise ordinance equipment.

Paul Tillman made the Planning Commission aware that the Doug Reed hearing has gone to the Select Board for review. The Select Board has called a public meeting scheduled for 8-3-20 at 7:00 pm at Martin Memorial Hall.

Paul Tillman printed out the section of the Town Plan section with the definitions of the zoning sections and the zoning bylaws for the Planning Commission.

4.) Comments from Citizens regarding items not on this agenda:

Julia Lloyd Wright responded to Paul's email regarding solar projects, renewable energy projects, etc.

Julia also discussed the Town's Future Energy Plan that the Planning Commission will be working on. Julia has been doing this for the past 10 years and has been working with all of the State Agencies, giving testimonies, working with VT Law School, Upper Valley Vital Communities and she noted that one of her recommendations that needs to be done is to write "You need to take into consideration that you are serving the whole town" when working on this.

Julia discussed the Municipal Energy Survey, which she will give to Chris Whidden to share with the Planning Commission so that they can see what the Town has done or has not done.

When Julia started as Energy Coordinator, she reviewed Town Reserve funds for unused money to fund energy projects, for example at the Town Garage. That year she was able to reduce the energy cost by 40% for the Town Garage and 50% for the Town.

She suggested that the Planning Commission review what the State expects as well as read the Enhanced Energy Plan because they are going to have to match that.

Areas that Julia and her group work on:

- Work with the State of VT
- Work with Regional Planning
- Work with surrounding towns to work on projects cooperatively
- Rebates for contract work
- EV Charging Stations
- Monitoring the Town energy usage
- Wrote a grant through the EPA and created a database

Paul Tillman asked Julia if she was willing to help figure out what future projects are coming through or being looked at in the Town. He also asked her about any project that are currently being worked on, an expected date of when they might be finished and any recommendations as an Energy Coordinator that she might have for them to look at the Town Plan so that the Planning Commission can try to work towards the State standards.

Paul Tillman wanted to make a point that the Energy Coordinator position is the only official position with the Town. The group that Julia works with are volunteers and residents that are not working in an official capacity for the Town.

The Planning Commission did let Julia know that they think her involvement is vital when they get to the Energy Plan and would like her to be involved as much as she is willing to be.

5.) Approval of Meeting Minutes –

Minutes from 6-8-20

Howard Beach made a motion to approve the minutes from 6-8-20

Michael Todd – 2nd

Discussion – Michael Todd asked to please change “Fire Processing” to “Fire Wood Processing”

Vote – unanimous

Minutes from 6-22-20

Tyler Harwell made a motion to approve the minutes from 6-22-20

Howard Beach – 2nd

Discussion – Michael Todd asked to review the last section and see if it is noted that Jason Rasmussen was the previous Land Administrator if it hadn’t been previously noted.

Vote – unanimous

6.) Discussion of manmade structures and property aesthetics – review this more when the Town Plan is discussed.

7.) Zoning Bylaw Updates:

- a. Conservation of Natural Resources bylaw- Riparian Buffers, Aquifer Protection
Riparian buffers will follow the State recommendations.

Aquafer Protection – Howard Beach is working on a definition and will present something to the Planning Commission for review.

- b. Changes to Zoning Map – The Planning Commission continued their discussion of the current zoning map. Reviewing the current map and the new overlay and reviewed definitions.
- c. Status Spreadsheet Review – up to date

8.) Discussion of items for future agendas – None

9.) Adjourn

Howard Beach made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM

Tyler Harwell - 2nd

Vote – unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Next Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for Monday July 27, 2020 at 7:00 pm at Martin Memorial Hall.

Respectfully,
Chauncie Tillman
Recording Secretary