

Planning Commission Meeting - Draft Minutes

Tuesday, May 16th, 6:30 pm

Town Office

Present: Amy Frost (AF), Izzy Provoncha (IP), Brenda Field (BF), Janet Wells (JW), Dan Ruddell (DR), Shane Young (SY)

Absent:

Guests: Elisse Gabriel

Planning PC Updates/Housekeeping

Trails Committee appointment

Elisse Gabriel has been recommended as a new member for the Trails Committee.

BF motion to accept, IP seconded. **Motion passed.**

Recap of Trails Cmte meeting on Monday

Various options for approaching landowner agreements regarding trails were discussed - Mike Hebb v. VAST models. Idea of a trails/recreation pamphlet mentioned. Ambassador of Trails to be a point person, annual review of trails, Liability insurance. Vt league of cities and towns and insurance coverage.

Floodplain Discussion

DR shared that the United States Geological Society (USGS) and FEMA are updating the flood maps. We are currently using hard copies from the 1980s. New maps will be compiled over a 5-year period (we are now in year 2) using LIDAR technology. We should have working maps available to review by next winter. Tunbridge will need to have its Flood Hazard Bylaws updated by 2026.. The issue is that there will be no base flood elevation and benchmarks in the new maps. Hydrology study will need to be done by the landowner which is quite expensive.

At present, the town has 21 buildings in the floodplain. DR has noted the town is experiencing more pressure for floodplain development. Important to alert people in town that they must apply for a floodplain permit before any building. References to “no zoning” such as the language on the back page of the town report should be removed. The floodplain ordinance *IS* the town’s zoning.

Recommendation for PC to encourage SB to eliminate “no zoning” references in any town documents, town website, etc. *AF will draft language to propose.*

Old Business

-Sidewalk project. Scoping project is moving forward very slowly. Part of the scoping study is the recommendation to give a presentation to the public and solicit input. SB has granted up to \$9900 for sidewalk matching funds from ARPA money.

New Business

-Upcoming meeting schedule

June meeting, DR will invite Kyle Katz from TRORC staff to speak.

-Town Future/PC projects visioning

There have been structural shifts and changes in work patterns due to the reality of climate migration and the pandemic. PC can't control what is driving the changes but can have input into our shared vision of the town and its priorities. Earlier town plans focused heavily on working landscapes, but now there's interest in developing a recreational industry, responding to new energy needs, etc. Maybe it's time for another 4 towns visioning exercise? Series of public forums? Important to educate and inform people already in town and newcomers in particular about how town is run, get input on what areas of town planning are important to people. Could include reps from committees/commissions, set up like a Library Winter evening model? Combine with Grange dinner? Potluck? Discussion and planning to be continued.

Public Comment

Meeting Adjourned 7:47 pm

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 20 at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall