

Planning Commission Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 28th, 2024
6:30 pm

DRAFT Minutes

Present: Brenda Field, Janet Wells, Amy Frost, Rudi Rudell
Lew Glick

Discussed use of the owl but only for audio. Agreed to take and post written minutes going forward.

Town meeting: Not everyone will be there. Rudi and Brenda will be present to respond to questions about the report. Questions about the sidewalk grant will be referred to Janet.

Grants update:

Sidewalk Grant. This is a grant that has already been awarded for a scoping/engineering study grant to address safety in town. Once we receive plans and costs, the grant is complete. For implementation of any ideas, we would need to seek additional funding sources.

PC has been given a list of options to request more information about and will request cost breakdown for a crosswalk from the parish house to town hall and another crosswalk from the post office to the library, to include speed signals. Sidewalk would not change but we will get information about the cost to repair and also make it ADA compliant and accommodating to people with a stroller, using a wheelchair, etc. Janet will follow up with Rita Seto to provide PC with a plan and cost analysis and request a detailed cost breakdown so that each piece can be treated separately.

Once costs are known, PC can invite comments, feedback from the community and explore potential funding ideas if we choose to proceed.

Bric Grant. BRIC RFP submitted to Mariah who circulated it. No bids came back. Amy will revise the wording of RFP and we will publish it again. This is an engineering/scoping study grant to address the Route 110 in town vulnerabilities in the event of another flood, fire, etc. Engineering study needs to be completed by 11/2/2024. Depending on what is recommended, we would then seek more funding for implementation.

Hazard Mitigation grant. This grant had a 1/31/2024 deadline and members of the PC provided input/met with Maryann Caron to discuss. Maryann has submitted to FEMA. This grant addresses the secondary breach of the Strafford road. FEMA is also offering grants for potential buyouts in the floodplain, this is the first time this kind of funding has been offered. Rudi is looking into this further and discussing with Pat Moulton. Priority deadline for expressing interest is Friday, March 29, 2024.

Grant opportunities. There are many opportunities for funding but not enough people to see them through. Maryann is very busy working on the existing grants. PC wants to encourage individuals to run with the ideas they have, find out details, cost, etc. and then come to a PC meeting to make a presentation and discuss.

PC Terms. PC must have a minimum of 3 members up to a maximum of 7. Term limits are not hard and fast and must be approved by the SB. People currently on PC are content to stay for now. There is one available seat

Floodplain by-laws. South Royalton is actively revising their by-laws and will be proposing to adopt the river corridor at town meeting. This would qualify them for another tier of funding.

If town chooses not to adopt this, South Royalton will also propose that the 500-year floodplain become a no-build zone. The Tunbridge current bylaws allow for a conditional review process for building in the flood hazard area. Should Tunbridge consider adopting/changing by-laws to be aligned with South Royalton? PC will consider this and discuss with SoRo, read the language they are proposing. It would be worth having a public event (at the library, info pamphlet to be distributed?) to explain current bylaws, any proposed changes, and invite questions.

Future planning. Updated Hazard Mitigation plan is due June 30, 2026 so still time. Much work was done on the last plan so this round will require a bit less but still some tweaking before submitting to FEMA. TRORC helped last time, we will ask for their assistance again when time.

Next scheduled PC meeting is Tuesday, March 19th at 6:30 pm