

Planning Commission Meeting
Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 6:30 pm
Draft Minutes

Amy Frost, Brenda Field, Janet Wells, Izzy Provoncha
Guests: Mindy (Melinda Kendall), Betsy Gaiser, Lori Elderd

March Minutes. BF made a motion to approve, JW Seconded. Minutes adopted. AF will change Draft status to Approved and then send to Geoff for posting

Buyouts/Elevation funding ltr/interest:

Mindy came to the meeting in response to a letter regarding buyouts/elevation funding. This used to be called the FEMA buyout program. FEMA encouraged the buyout so as not to have buildings being taken out and going down river causing more damage.

Mindy is interested in maybe pursuing the elevation. Amy will send Mindy a link, she will connect with Rudi, we may need to schedule another meeting.

Sidewalk Grant: mtg with VHB about their sidewalk proposal that will happen next Monday online. Two Rivers and the engineers, Kevin Rose will go. Then they will do a public presentation about the scoping grant and what it would cost. How much will each scenario cost? What percentage does the town have to put into something like this? Do townspeople want to see it happen?

A public meeting could be incorporated with a fun event such as the July 9th ice cream social. It could be held at the library, maybe not a full presentation but handouts and visuals.

This scoping grant is more than a “sidewalk” grant, it’s a walkability safety grant. This one is for the main village but if successful, we could apply for another grant for N. Tunbridge.

Grants Administration:

BRIC update Grant Administration From Maryann (and Sydney at Two Rivers). Two Rivers can help with grant management for a fee. This is not something we need to pursue as Maryann is managing our grants. We should only take on as many grants as she and any volunteers can handle.

BRIC Grant getting bids: We have circulated the RFP two times and have not received any bids and the first quarterly report is due. Amy and Maryann met and discussed how to proceed. Lisa Kolb said to go ahead and complete the report indicating we were 0% complete with the project and to put in the work we have done but that no bids were received. She suggested sending the RFP directly to the larger engineering firms (Dubois & King, Sanborn Head, SLR, etc); contacting the Vt League of Cities and Towns for ideas; reaching out to Two Rivers; and then reposting the RFP.

Other Business:

PC open Seat “job” opportunities - TQ advertising? Betsy included a list of 40 volunteer opportunities in the welcome bags .

Maybe encourage the SB to have a “job fair” where we have social events as well.

Barnard article, about how to deal with roads with longer and more frequent mud seasons.

Betsy: Baxter is looking for younger members for the Tri-town travelers (snow machine club) Looking to move the snow machine trail off of Echeverria and onto O'Brien's and will apply for money through VAST. There are 6 stream crossings that will require bridges.

Other funding opportunities for trails. Robin's Sled shop in Windsor - Brenda will ask if he knows about other funding?

VOREC - The Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC)

VAST has put in so much effort on the trails. Rod has been great about pulling out the old culverts and has kept a stash of them that might be useful.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 21 st.