

Planning Commission Meeting - DRAFT Minutes
September 17, 2024
6:30 pm Town Office

Present: Amy Frost, Brenda Field, Janet Wells,
Public: Betsy Gaiser, Todd Tyson, John Echiverria, Katharine Mcguire

August Minutes

Janet made a motion to approve the August minutes, Brenda seconded. August minutes approved.

Confirmation to the public that three planning committee members present constitute a quorum.

Grants update

Sidewalk: Drew Gingras (VHB) and Rita Sito (Two Rivers) will give a presentation/recommendation on the sidewalk proposal to the Selectboard on Tuesday Sept 24. Following the SB mtg, there will be a final presentation at town meeting where the town will be able to accept the final report.

There is a traffic study in place in town which was put up before the fair. This will allow VTRANS to decide where the speed signs are placed. How long do we leave it up and when do we get results?

BRIC Grant. VHB bid on the BRIC, SB accepted and signed the contract to them for \$48,931, work to be completed by 11/2025.

Letter to State

PC discussed in the August meeting writing a letter to the State expressing frustration about the number of available grants v. available volunteers and lack of time/training. We are largely a volunteer town and it can be difficult to navigate the grant system. And a concern that eventually the administrative costs will make taking on new grants prohibitive. Two Rivers can provide assistance to towns (MTAP program) and the State has expressed a desire to help. Make sure to include the point that BF raised: taxpayers are concerned that a high portion of the grant money is being spent on overhead and administrative costs, the longer these grants take to apply for, receive, and execute, the more the costs will be. JE mentioned TRORC's Municipal Technical Assistance Program. PC has investigated this and had someone come to a meeting in the past. A question arose about whether FEMA had ever reimbursed the Town of Tunbridge for the Strafford Rd bridge project up by Hoyt Rd. BF will follow up with the Grants Administrator on this.

A letter could be written, run by the SB and Town Clerk, and then potentially sent to Becka Balient, Peter Welch.

Floodplain Administration/mapping. This needs to be back on the agenda. South Royalton has been discussing the mapping for their town, Geo Honingford is the person to ask about maps and the next meeting Find out if LiDAR maps have been released yet.

Trails Discussion. PC willing to look at the definition of events and suggest to the SB potential policy wording and defining what constitutes an event, organized events, fees/volume of event participants. What about events that start/are organized in other towns but come through Tunbridge? Discussion about this will continue at the next meeting.

Community members urged the PC to advise the SB about definition of events and provide clarity about the topic of Legal Trails. Discussion ensued, no decisions made.

Katharine McGuire was in attendance and is considering joining the PC. She brings a background and interest in policy writing and education. She will attend the next meeting and a vote may be taken at that time.

There was discussion about switching the regular PC meetings to Wednesdays going forward.

October Meeting TBD