

4-3-2023 Planning Commission Minutes (Approved on 5-1-2023)

Members present via Zoom included: Hilary Solomon, Steve Harrington, Tasha Turan.

At 4:33 the meeting was called to order.

Agenda was approved.

There were no old notes to review or approve.

There was no correspondence to review but the need to retrieve it from the town office was discussed.

Old Business was reviewed:

- a. The Town Plan Energy Section- The need for prioritizing an update to the Energy Section of the Town Plan was identified. If possible, preferred locations for siting alternative energy would be identified in the Town Plan. This could help the town down the road. (e.g., The town would have had legal standing when a wind power project on a ridge was proposed.) Appropriate solar power areas could be identified and differentiated from inappropriate land areas through mapping (not necessarily zoning), and statements about retaining ridges or historical or aesthetic views could be added.

For this to happen, the new members will review a current Energy Plan from a neighboring town. The Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) may have a copy available online. The RRPC should then be consulted for education and to facilitate the creation of a plan for Middletown Springs. Barbara Noyes-Pulling of RRPC may be able to give another presentation about what a more modern Energy Plan should look like. Energy Plan templates are thorough and about 30 pages long. Questions regarding residents' thoughts about alternative forms of energy can be included in the next survey to inform our work on this section.

- b. Request from Town Clerk, Patty Kenyon, to go through PC files at the Town Office- PC members will gather together once it is warmer and go through records in a more spacious location, perhaps such as in the Historical Society dining room area. Duplicate records may be purged. Before anything is purged, the records retention policy should be reviewed.

New Business:

- a. New Members/ New Meeting Time or Dates- Steve Harrington and Tasha Turan were nominated and approved by the Select Board as interim members until the next election in 2024. All members agreed to try to comply with precedent time and date for meeting, the first Monday of the month at 4:30 PM. The preferred contact information of new members was exchanged.
- b. Member Responsibilities and Roles- Steve Harrington will serve as Interim Chair; Tasha Turan will serve as Interim Secretary; and Hilary Solomon agreed to continue to serve as the PC's Advisory Member as long as she is able. Tasha Turan stated that she is temporary and would be willing to step aside once another more permanent member is found.
- c. Potential Projects or Focus Areas- Explore ways to address pedestrian safety and update the survey to include a question, such as: "Are you concerned about pedestrian safety in town?" Consult with Select Board in regards to speed study and potential signs that were mentioned at the last SB meeting; research alternatives to sidewalks; and ask contact, Devon Neary, of the RRPC if he knows of any possible grants through VTrans. Castleton University should be contacted before an updated Survey is started.
- d. New members should review existing town plan and recent survey results.

Next Meeting Date will be May 1, 2023 at 4:30 PM.

Commitments for follow-up before next meeting include:

- Hilary will locate a copy of the Pawlet energy plan/section of their town plan at home and reach-out to her contacts at the RRPC, Barbara Noyes-Pulling (in regards to Energy Plan presentation) and Devon Neary (in regards to possible grant opportunities to address pedestrian safety).
- Steve will create a gmail folder for the PC and review the existing Town Plan and Survey (2017) before the next meeting.
- Tasha will type up minutes and submit them to the other members for correction within three days. Once members have had the opportunity to make any corrections, unapproved minutes will be shared with the Town Clerk, Patty Kenyon, and Librarian, Kimberly Bushnell. Minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 PM.

WARNING

The Middletown Springs Planning Commission will hold its May Meeting on Monday, May 1, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. via a Zoom meeting

Meeting ID: 898 5796 8681

Passcode: 331977

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Call to order

Agenda Approval

1. Review of the regular meeting notes

2. Correspondence

3. Old Business

a. Town Plan – Energy Section

b. PC files in Town Office

c. Pedestrian Safety

4. New Business

a. New Members / new meeting time or date?

b. Steps to move projects forward

c. Additional potential projects

5. Next meeting date: June 5, 2023

Adjournment