

9.21.22 Planning Commission DRAFT minutes

Planning Commission members present at Town Hall: Farley Brown, Gordon Waterhouse, Lucas Schulz, David Rowell, Ross Davis, Rudy Chase, Emily Maclure, Linda Ramsdell

Others at Town Hall: Gina Campoli, John Brodhead, Alison Low (Northeastern Vermont Development Association), Alan Turnbull, Susan Houston (Selectboard)

Virtual: Emily Lewis, (DuBois & King)

Farley called the meeting to order at 7:14. This meeting immediately followed the final focus group meeting at 6PM.

1. Approval of the August 24th minutes

Gordon moved to approve the August 24th minutes, Rudy seconded. Discussion highlighted the need to pass July 20th minutes. August 24th minutes passed unanimously.

Farley moved to pass July 20th minutes, Gordon seconded, no discussion, July 20th minutes passed unanimously.

2. Kris Coville, Craftsbury Food Pantry and Traffic Circulation in the Village

Especially as it relates to the Village Plan and traffic circulation in the village, Rudy suggested Kris Coville present to the Planning Commission about the Craftsbury Food Pantry.

Kris helps run the food pantries in Craftsbury and Albany. These sites were initiated by Craftsbury Neighbor to Neighbor and other volunteers during the pandemic and have now been adopted by the Hardwick Area Food Pantry as part of their operations. The Craftsbury site serves 65-95 households/week and includes a delivery program. Food delivery and storage sites are spread through several towns, and while this demonstrates an incredible web of support, it also involves a lot of driving and moving food that is taxing on volunteers and their vehicles. The pantry is working toward an on site storage solution to save time and resources, and there is also longer term planning underway to find a site for the Craftsbury Food Pantry, currently located in the United Church on the Common.

3. Debrief the CVP Focus Groups

Emily Lewis joined the meeting virtually and Alison Low debriefed the overarching themes of the focus group meetings held in August and September. Farley and Alison will work to compile notes from all the focus groups, broken out in categories and themes, to share with DuBois & King. DuBois & King will incorporate this piece of the public participation process, along with others, in their work.

4. Next steps with CVP Public Participation

Emily Lewis screen shared the draft documents of the report that DuBois & King is working on.

There have been 30 responses to the survey which is open through September 30. After the survey closes, DuBois & King will work with what has been gathered from the public through focus groups, the survey, and input at the Block Party tent. All of this public engagement will be part of the planning process. At the October 19 meeting, the Planning Commission will review a summary of the outcomes from the public engagement process, and the initial recommendations from DuBois & King.

A Visioning Meeting, tentatively scheduled for November 16 or 17, will follow. This is a public meeting to review the potential plan recommendations and visions for the future of Craftsbury Village and is another opportunity for public engagement.

Other Business:

Susan Houston and Farley spoke about an upcoming presentation by Jens Hilke on October 17 at the Conservation Commission meeting. Jens Hilke will discuss priority habitat blocks, forest fragmentation and connectivity. Farley strongly urged all Planning Commission members to attend, and with Alison Low, reminded us that what we learn from Jens Hilke will inform the town plan update, which includes new requirements related to Act 171 governing planning for forest blocks and habitat connectors.

Alison also reminded the Planning Commission about the need to update flood plan maps. The final map from FEMA for flood regulations will be available in 2.5 years. We will need to incorporate changes in the flood resilience section of the town plan.

Dave Rowell moved to adjourn, Ross Davis seconded, meeting adjourned 8:32.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Ramsdell

