

Berlin Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes APPROVED

February 11, 2015

Present: Karla Nuissl, Clara Ayer, Tom Badowski, Geoff Farrell, Sally Herring

Next meeting: February 25, 2015, 7pm, Berlin Town Offices

1. Discussion

Unified Code Update

The grant that the Planning Commission applied for to create a Unified Code for Zoning and Subdivision Regulations has been approved. Brandy Saxton of Place Sense in Port Henry, NY has put in a proposal to do the work for the “overhaul” and switch to a Unified Code.

Brandy has done several projects in Vermont. Other towns have enjoyed working with her and the Regional Planning Commission all speak highly of Brandy’s work. Her current and past projects are all on her website (PlaceSense.com), this makes it easy to get a feel for her work, check progress and make comments.

Next steps in process:

1. Create a list of questions for Brandy. Email them to Tom by February 18th.
2. Have Brandy come in and meet us
 - a. February 23rd at 4pm
3. Selectboard Approval of Brandy’s Proposal
4. Hold a meeting with various members, committees and affected parties of the town to get a feel for what is currently working and what could use updates or changes so that everyone has input and suggestions before the process even starts. People to invite:
 - a. All Town Committees, Department of Transportation, School, Selectboard, Police, Fire Department, FEMA, Developers, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Hospital
 - b. Others?

20 Muzzy Road

The town acquired this 3-acre lot; there is about 1.5 acres that had buildings on it that have recently been removed. This lot cannot be built on in the future. There are two grants that have been applied for, one for \$5,000 to plan what to do with the lot and one for \$30,000 to execute the plan. The goal is an environmentally friendly community use space. Thoughts so far are: gardens, walking paths, gathering spot. The next step in this process is to contact the surrounding neighbors for their thoughts and input.

Next Meeting

Bob Werneke will be at our meeting February 25th to talk about some regional maps that have been put together by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission.