

**Berlin, VT**  
**Planning Commission Meeting**  
**July 24, 2019**  
**7:00 PM**

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

**Planning Commissioner Members Present:** Polly McMurtry (PM), David Huber (DH), Jared Felch (JF) and Jacob Coakwell (JC)

**Absent:** Karla Nuisl (KN),

**Others:** Jamie Stewart (JS) and Thomas Badowski (TB).

7:00 PM Call to Order by Vice Chair McMurtry

**Approval of Minutes:** DH Moved and JF Second a Motion to approve the June 12, 2019, Minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

**Economic Development Opportunities for Berlin –**Jamie Stewart, of the Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation (CVE) explained that Central Vermont was one of 12 EDCs in Vermont with service area of Washington County and several communities in Orange County. The charge of CVE is to help businesses grow and succeed.

JS stated that Zoning Regulations play a key role in attracting businesses. Towns should address Stormwater regulations as that is ever increasingly important to developers. Also keeping an inventory of “developable sites” is important for Towns.

- 1) A significant deterrent to development is the 25%- 50% spread on appraised value of commercial property versus the actual cost to construct.
- 2) The perception that the cost of doing business in Vermont is high.

Positive factors include

- 1) Lifestyle activities
- 2) Marketing Local and Regional outdoor recreation

JS suggested developing a social media campaign, with possible collaboration with local university. Berlin should send JS list of lots being actively marketed. Establish working relationships with Housing Boards. Seek USDA Rural Development grants for specific economic development projects.

JS agreed to meet with the PC Board quarterly to continue brainstorming.

### **Town Plan Action Items**

Copies of the Town Plan was distributed and members asked to read and to be prepared to discuss Action Items at next meeting

### **Planning Grant**

TB informed the Board that he has established a profile with State to allow on-line submittal of Planning Grant application. Clare Rock has offered assistance and he anticipates working with her to submit the application in August 2019.

### **Next Meeting**

August 14, 2019

**Adjourn** Vice Chair PM adjourned at 8:45 PM