

**Berlin, VT**  
**Planning Commission Meeting**  
**June 12, 2019**  
**7:00 PM**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**Planning Commissioner Members Present:** Karla Nuisl (KN), Polly McMurtry (PM), Jared Felch (JF) and Jacob Coakwell (JC)

**Absent:** David Huber (DH)

**Others:** Clare Rock (CR) and Thomas Badowski (TB).

7:04 PM Call to Order by Chair Nuisl introducing new Planning Commission (PC) members Jared Felch and Jacob Coakwell and thanking Gary Laroche for his service.

**Approval of Minutes:** PM Moved and JC Second a Motion to approve the April 24, 2019, Minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

**Economic Development Opportunities for Berlin** –Clare Rock, of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, distributed Page 19 of the 2008 “Town of Berlin Economic Development Plan” which listed 27 Implementation Strategies for economic development. The top strategy in 2008 was “increase staff capacity for economic development activities.” The failure to address this strategy correlated to failing on nine additional strategies. Four of the strategies have been successfully completed. Ten of the strategies are anticipated to be completed with the Fall of 2020 submittal of the New Town Center/Neighborhood Designation applications. Two strategies are in the PC purview. One strategy has twice failed to receive voter approval.

Discussion turned to how to fund an increase in staff for economic development. CR presented several examples of how other Vermont municipalities handle this matter. All but one of the seven examples cited received base funding through the municipality which staff supplement with grant procurement. The management structure of these programs was discussed, ranging from an autonomous relationship with the municipality to a direct employee of the municipality.

CR stated that the Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation may have additional advice. TB will invite CVEDC to an upcoming meeting.

**New Town Center**

TB reminded all of the June 26, 2019, Multi-Committee Meeting hosted by the Selectboard. This meeting will be at 5:30 PM at the Grange.

**Village Center Designation Applications (VCD)**

TB reminded all of the June 24, 2019, meeting of the Downtown Board to review the Riverton and Berlin Corners VCD.

**Next Planning Commission Meeting:** The Multi-Committee meeting June 26, 2019.

**Adjourn** Chair Nuisl adjourned at 8:31 PM