

Berlin, VT
Planning Commission Meeting
March 11, 2020
7:00 PM

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Planning Commissioner Members Present: Karla Nuisl (KN), Polly McMurtry (PM), David Huber (DH), Jacob Coakwell (JC)

Absent: Jared Felch (JF)

Others: Cindy Barr (CB), Frank Barr (FB), Justin Lawrence (JL), Thomas Badowski (TB).

7:00 PM Call to Order by Chair Nuisl

Approval of Minutes: PM Moved and DH Second a Motion to approve the February 26, 2020, Minutes as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.

New Town Center (NTC)

Joint Committee Meeting – TB informed the Commission that April 20, 2020, is the date for the joint meeting of Selectboard and other standing town committees to kick-off the NTC planning process. Town Administrator to invite all committees.

Public Works Bond Vote – TB thanked the Commission on behalf of the Public Works Board for their support in the recent Town Meeting Bond Vote. \$600K Bond passed 498 to 241. Public Works to immediately seek vendor for Smart Metering of sewer/water customers and anticipates spring of 2021 contract award of Well #4 connection to drinking water distribution system.

Concept Drawing of Downstreet Daycare and Workforce Housing – Concept drawings were distributed.

Outreach Events – Suggestions to place NTC information kiosks at Mall, Hospital, Maplewoods, Fresh Tracks, Falls General Store, etc. Place Sense to be asked to give their thoughts and recommendations.

Village Wastewater Solutions – Riverton

CB and FB introduced themselves owners of several properties, including income producing properties, in Riverton. They agree that wastewater management is vital to the economic development of the Village. TB distributed DEC and DHCD sponsored “Organizing Village

Wastewater Solutions” (Plan). The 10 point Getting Organized section of the Plan was discussed.

1. Form a diverse and committed wastewater committee – A grassroots, Village resident support structure is needed. CB/FB will talk to neighbors and solicit their input. Commission to act as Town lead.
2. Have a committee endorsed by Selectboard – Commission will wait for feedback from CB/FB, keeping this as an open agenda item. Assuming Village support, formal presentation to Selectboard to follow.
3. Include Selectboard, PC and town staff member in committee – It was suggested to discuss with selectperson Flo Smith as possible committee member
4. Address village wastewater needs in town plan – Town plan should be sufficient
5. Have town plan approved by RPC – Current town plan is approved by RPC
6. Establish town planning fund – TB to investigate AARP and CDBG grants as potential sources of funding. To that end PM moved and DH second a Motion to have staff prepare a grant application to AARB for Riverton wastewater solutions project and forward to Selectboard. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Form community vision for what Riverton residents want – RPC will be solicited to help with this visioning
8. Obtain Village Center designation – Riverton received VCD in 2019
9. Conduct survey of all Village properties to understand their wastewater needs – Item #6 is critical to this
10. Write a short statement why wastewater solutions are needed

Public Comment

JL introduced himself as a property owner on Route 302. With the recent zoning regulation changes, he requested the Commission review their thought process in determining the boundary line between Commercial and Mixed Use Districts on Route 302. He suggests that Tax Map information available at the time the new zoning map was created was in error and if known likely the border line may have been drawn differently.

KN instructed staff to pull historic and current documents on this matter and distribute to the Commission before the next meeting.

Next Meeting

March 25, 2020

Adjourn Chair KN adjourned at 8:45 PM