

**Minutes for Town of Pawlet Planning Commission
Pawlet Town Office, Pawlet, VT
Monday, October 28, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.**

Members in Attendance:

**Gary Baierlein
John Thrasher
Eric Mach
Harry van Meter
Fred Stone
Wayne Clarke**

Members Not in Attendance:

Karl Eberth

Others in Attendance:

**Lenny Gibson, starting at 7:50
Kathy Doyle (Clerk)**

Item 1: Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 2: Zoning Administrator Report

Eric Mach discussed a recent permit application for the addition of an apartment to an existing structure. Eric said the project complies with town guidelines and noted that the septic system would need to be approval by the state.

Item 3: Comments from Audience

None

Item 4: Preliminary review and set schedule for town plan.

John Thrasher commented that he would like to come up with a check list of items to complete for a revision of the town plan. Harry van Meter suggested that different sections be assigned to different people.

John Thrasher pointed out that conservation groups have indicated that the Agricultural Section is not as strong as it should be based on efforts in town. . Lenny Gibson said 2010 census data was not included throughout the document in the last plan. He noted that census data is available online about 3 years after the census is complete.

John asked if Eric would make a request to the Regional Planning Commission about good town plans to use a guide to help in the revision of Pawlet's plan. Eric indicated that he would get a list of things to concentrate on from the Regional Planning Commission.

Wayne asked about conducting a survey of town residents and suggested that planning commission members might come up with questions to ask. John mentioned that the plan includes two sections -- the first is a snap shot of what the town looks like. The second part which includes a vision for the future of the town would be helped by a

survey. Harry suggested the commission look at the structure of the plan before coming up with survey questions. John Thrasher agreed with Harry, but noted he felt it was good to ask for community input.

Harry indicated that he would like to improve the maps based on GIS data layers such as flood hazard zones, riparian corridors and conserved lands. John pointed out that the Pawlet GIS maps are available online and are quite informative. Wayne mentioned the usefulness of the map showing where fire plugs are. It was mentioned that cartographers will update the maps once per year for free. Members were asked to consider which data layers should be updated.

John asked that members look at other town plans to see what they like and what should be modified, and to consider who will work on which section. Eric commented that the regional plan is well written and should be considered. John mentioned the need to make sure the Pawlet town plan is compatible with the regional plan.

Lenny Gibson pointed out the need for someone to edit the plan for coherence and noted that the last town plan had no editor. He wondered if the select board would allocate money to hire an editor. John said the PC could propose a budget to the select board. John noted that after the PC does preliminary work they could determine whether or not to request money for an editor.

Item 5: New Business

John noted that the PC received the opportunity to comment on two underground injection control (UIC) permits. He indicated that as both properties have permits in place, the permits need to be updated; he did not see the need to comment.

John mentioned that the commission received a copy of *Community Strategies for Vermont's Forests and Wildlife: a Guide for Local Action* published by the Vermont Natural Resources Council. He noted that the guide discusses how Vermont's forests are becoming increasingly fragmented and provides assistance to towns for implementing strategies. John said that it would be good to take a look to see what ideas might be incorporated into the town plan. John said he would leave the guide in Eric's mail box for all to share.

John announced that a Planning and Zoning forum was being held on November 19 in Montpelier.

Item 6: Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Review Minutes; Audience Comments; Zoning Administrator's Report; Review of Pawlet and other Town Plans and determine what modifications to pursue and delegate responsibilities; New Business; and Set Agenda for Next Meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Doyle, Clerk.