

**Minutes for Town of Pawlet Planning Commission  
Pawlet Town Office  
Pawlet, VT  
Monday, October. 23rd, 2017  
7:30 p.m.**

**Members Attending:**

**Wayne Clarke  
Gary Baierlein  
Mark Frost  
Melissa LaCount  
Eric Mach  
Harry Van Meter  
Rik Sassa**

**Members Absent**

**Others Attending:**

**Frank Nelson, West Pawlet  
Philip Ackerman-Leist, Pawlet**

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Eric called the meeting to order at 7:43 p.m.

**Item 1: Meeting Agenda**

Eric Mach invited Philip Ackerman-Leist to talk about agriculture in the community. Wayne Clarke motioned to approve agenda. Harry Van Meter seconded, motion passed

**Item 2: Minutes of Sept. 25th Meeting**

Eric Mach made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting. Harry Van Meter seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Item 3: Public Comments**

**Item 4: Zoning Administrator's report**

Eric Mach said that the Beaver brook project was finished and that one previously permitted garage had begun construction. Also, that Citizens Bank will be needing to send a proposal for an expansion to the DRB.

### **Item 5: Economic Development and Infrastructure Improvements**

Eric provided copies of a survey for board members to look over which asked questions determining the extent to which a community's bylaws support agriculture. Eric spoke about the state changing from agricultural recommendations to agricultural requirements. Philip explained the difference between the categories of how the state sets requirements of animal density. Eric read from a PowerPoint presentation about innovative uses for agriculture, agricultural land, and farms.

Wayne suggested that perhaps a co-op could combine area farms and their products rather than small unconnected enterprises. Philip offered, based upon his farming experience and Green Mountain College connection, that he sees the struggle of area small independent farmers. Watching for 35 years, he sees the situation as a regional issue rather than simply a town issue. There is a sales market concern that has begun to be addressed in Rutland and in a new co-op in Poultney, involving a market that can go year round instead of just during summer months. Some Rutland farmers' market participants are planning on combining products to take down to New York or Boston. Other ideas expressed were: combining markets to increase exposure, cycling maps of the region that could direct potential customers to local products, and the lack of sufficient demographic density to support small businesses with value added products. Frank Nelson made a connection between businesses that can keep their energy costs down having a higher likelihood of success and how a town plan involving a solar grid, much like residents hooking into the town septic system, could facilitate the appeal of attracting businesses to the area.

Harry Van Meter noted that 2020 is the year for the next town plan.

### **Item 6. Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Planning Commission will be on November, 27th, 2017 at 7:30 PM. The agenda is: 1) approve agenda 2) approve minutes 3) public comments 4) Eric Mach invited Lyle Jepson of Castleton State College. 5) Zoning Administrator's report 6) set agenda for next meeting.

Harry Van Meter moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:49pm, Wayne Clarke seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Rik Sassa