



**Minutes for Town of Pawlet Planning Commission
Pawlet Town Office
Pawlet, VT
Monday, February 23, 2015
7:30 p.m.**

Members in Attendance:

**Eric Mach
Paul Elsholz
Wayne Clarke
Lenny Gibson
Fred Stone
Harry Van Meter**

Members Not in Attendance:

Gary Baierlein

Others in Attendance:

**Barbara Noyes Pulling, Rutland Regional Planning Commission
Susan Schreiber, Rutland Regional Planning Commission
Kimberly Griffin, Rutland Area Physical Activity Coalition
Hilary Solomon, Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District
Frank Nelson
Keith Mason
Elizabeth Gibson**

Item 1: Approval of Agenda

Eric called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Wayne moved to approve the agenda, Lenny seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes, January 23, 2015

Keith Mason requested a correction to last month's discussion about Chet Clark Road. Lenny moved to approve the minutes as corrected; Harry seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Item 2: Comments from the Audience

Hilary Solomon from the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District discussed State and District work planned for improving the water quality of Flower Brook this summer, to focus on storm water infrastructure, erosion issues, headwaters, etc. The goal is to determine where phosphorus, sediment and E. coli are coming from and how to remedy this problem so that Flower Brook will no longer be classified as impaired. Hilary suggests that an advisory committee that includes community members be formed to help coordinate these efforts with the homeowners and other local people who may be involved, and she hopes that someone from the Pawlet Planning Commission will be a committee member. Paul Elsholz said that he was interested and that he has relevant expertise. Hilary and Elizabeth Gibson will work together on a press release to be included in the spring issue of the Pawlet Newsletter.

Elizabeth was present both to take minutes and also as a member of the Pawlet Energy Group to talk about the energy section town plan and how to coordinate that process with the PPC.

Susan Schreiber and Kimberly Griffin discussed the pedestrian survey (walk audit) conducted in the Pawlet village center in October 2014. Positive findings included: acceptable driver behavior, areas with good shoulders for walking and attractive village center. Recommendations for improvement included: reducing the speed limit on VT Route 133 as it approaches Route 30, implementing “traffic calming” measures for traffic approaching the village center, creating wider shoulders, improve sidewalks and possible crosswalk. There was extended discussion about the issue of crossing Route 30; apparently VTrans does not want to reduce speed limit through town but other measures, such as speed feedback signs, could be very helpful. Regarding a possible crosswalk across Route 30, Susan said the first step would be to apply for a scoping study (roughly \$25-\$30K) done by a traffic engineer that would recommend sidewalks and crosswalks. The next step after that would be to apply for construction funding.

Item 3. Zoning Administrator Report

Harry temporarily presided over the meeting while Eric, as Zoning Administrator, reported that he had not issued many permits recently. He said that the Select Board is investigating Pawlet’s zoning fees and comparing them with other towns, as Pawlet’s fees are likely too low. Eric plans to attend the next Select Board meeting to discuss zoning fees.

Item 4. Old Business

Revision of Town Plan: Barbara discussed the Town Plan and the community survey. The survey will be posted online at Pawlet.vt.gov and will be in the spring issue of the Pawlet Newsletter, to be distributed next week. It will also be passed out at Town Meeting and will be available at the exit polls during Town Elections. The goal is to have preliminary results from the survey available for the community forum, set for the next PPC meeting March 23.

Eric said he would moderate the community forum, with the basic agenda being the survey questions and the concerns of the public attending. The survey will be held in the Town Hall Conference room. Lenny will bring a screen and Barbara will bring a Power Point projector.

A flood resilience chapter is now required for the town plan and Eric suggested that he write that section with input from Bob Morlino, Hilary Solomon and Keith Mason. That section is scheduled to be discussed at the PPC’s April 27 meeting, along with results from the survey and public forum, transportation section, energy section and possibly land use/agriculture sections. At the PPC May meeting, the economic development chapter would be taken up, with a focus on people who are doing commerce in the Town.

Item 6. Set Agenda for Next Meeting – March 23, 2015.

Approve agenda with any changes; approve minutes of February meeting; community forum and other audience comments; zoning administrator report; new business; agenda for next meeting.

Harry moved to adjourn at 9 p.m., Paul seconded. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Gibson, Acting Clerk