



**Minutes for Town of Pawlet Planning Commission
Pawlet Town Office
Pawlet, VT
Monday, May 22, 2017
7:30 p.m.**

Members Attending:

**Eric Mach – Chairman
Wayne Clarke
Mark Frost
Harry Van Meter**

Members Absent:

**Gary Baierlein
Melissa LaCount
Rik Sassa**

Others Attending:

**Kit Shaw, Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC)
Frank Nelson, West Pawlet resident**

Eric Mach called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

Item 1: Meeting Agenda

Mark Frost made a motion to accept the meeting agenda. Wayne Clarke seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Item 2: Minutes of April 24, 2017 Meeting

Eric Mach made a motion to accept the meeting minutes with one correction to Item 2. Wayne Clarke seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Item 3: Public Comments

Frank Nelson asked if Lyman Orton from the Vermont Country Store had been contacted to come speak to the Planning Commission about economic development in the two villages. Eric Mach said that contact had not yet been made.

Frank Nelson suggested a joint meeting between the Pawlet Energy Group (PEG) and the Pawlet Planning Commission (PPC) to discuss the economic development potential of alternative energy production within the Town.

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Item 4: Guest Speaker – Kit Shaw, Rutland Regional Planning Commission

Kit discussed various issues which affect the economic development of the two villages in the Town of Pawlet. He brought an orthographic map of the town for illustration. He also said that he will be working with Tim Hughes-Muse and Kieth Mason and will be discussing culverts, road surfaces and road erosion as a part of the Vermont Better Roads program and noted that grants are available to municipalities throughout the state for local road upgrades and repairs. He said that this program is the best management program for dirt roads.

Kit discussed with the Commission the concern about highway speeds on route 30, especially through the Village of Pawlet. Eric emphasized the especially dangerous condition at the junction of route 30 and 133 and School Street due to the blind spots for motorists going in both directions. Eric described some of the solutions that have been discussed in previous public meetings, such as lobbying the state highway department to lower the speed limits through the village, and installing crosswalks and a roundabout as means of slowing traffic speeds.

Harry indicated that he had conducted an informal survey of sidewalks on both sides of route 30 from the above-mentioned intersection, south to Sheldon's Store. He said that he found that there are existing sidewalks that have been overgrown, covered by silt that had eroded over the years from adjacent properties and broken up and depressed below the level of the adjacent highway. Harry said that he believes a better pedestrian experience will help in the development of commercial properties along the highway.

Kit said that grants are available for alternate transportation initiatives, such as bike routes and pedestrian walkways. He said that most of the funds available for roadways, however, are going to storm water management. Kit recommended the Town of Pawlet apply for a Municipal Planning Grant to have a thorough road study conducted. He said that the RRPC will help with the writing and submission of the grant application.

Harry suggested that the Commission invite Kit to come back during one of the summer meetings after he had met with Tim and Keith. A tentative date was set for the meeting of July 24, 2017.

Eric said that he would also like to have someone from the state Department of Agriculture come and speak to the Commission on the economic development of the Town's Rural Residential and Agriculture zones.

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Item 5: Zoning Administrator’s Report

Eric Mach reported that he had nothing to report.

Item 6: Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Pawlet Planning Commission will be held on June 26, 2017 at 7:30 PM. The agenda for that meeting will be 1) approve agenda, 2) approve minutes, 3) public comments, 4) guest speaker (TBD), 5) zoning administrator’s report, 6) set agenda for the next meeting.

Harry Van Meter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Frost seconded the motion and Eric Mach adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Harry Van Meter
Revised July 18, 2017 for formatting and corrections.