

**Town of Pawlet Planning Commission
Pawlet Town Office
Pawlet, VT
Monday, Oct 26, 2015
7:30 pm**

Members in Attendance:

**Gary Baierlein
Wayne Clarke
Paul Elsholz
Melissa LaCount
Eric Mach
Harry Van Meter**

Members Absent:

None (one vacant seat)

Also In Attendance:

**Ed Bove, Rutland Regional Planning Commission
Robyn Burch, Pawlet
Timothy Hughs-Muse, Pawlet
Bob Morlino, Pawlet
Nancy Morlino, Pawlet
Frank Nelson, West Pawlet
Barbara Noyes Pulling, Rutland Regional Planning Commission
Michael Santoro, Pawlet**

Item 1 -- Approval of the Agenda

Wayne moved to approve the agenda seconded by Gary, passed

Item 2 -- Approval of the Sept 28 minutes

Harry said that he opposed the addition of the agricultural summary in the Sept 28 meeting because it didn't go far enough and that the minutes should reflect this.

Harry moved to approve the minutes with this modification, Gary seconded, motion passed.

Item 3 -- Audience Q&A

Frank said, as a global concern, the board needs to avoid excluding people when working on a project. One way to do this is to only use technology that is understood by the least tech-savy person in the group. Additionally, open source software such as Jitsi (for streaming video) and

Open Office (for reading and editing documents), may be used to improve community participation.

Item 4 -- Old Business

Town Plan

Although Fred Stone resigned prior to its completion, Harry wanted to make sure that Fred gets credit for the amount of work he put into the Town Plan. His name was added as one of the members of the Planning Commission in the Acknowledgements.

Eric began a review of some of the changes that select board member, Sarah Ludlam, wanted in the Town Plan. Barbara supplied the commission with a list of proposed edits. Due to the volume of potential changes, only the most significant ones were looked at.

Issues discussed include the following.

- Word choices are important. To allow flexibility in some places of the Town Plan without opening up potential lawsuits in other places, the words "may" and "shall" should be selected judiciously.
- Affordable housing is a state goal. The language in the Town Plan should be supportive of this goal.
- Similarly, the mandates to meet flood resilience requirements are not in our hands. To avoid the risk of losing flood insurance, we need to be careful about the language we choose.
- The repetition of phrases, sentences and even entire paragraphs needs to be dealt with in multiple places in this draft.
- The signage on Route 30 is incomplete. From 1 mile south of Pawlet Village to 1 mile north of Pawlet Village, the speed limit should be 40 mph or less.
- The *Telecommunications* section of the *Utilities and Facilities* Chapter needs to be rewritten. Emergency preparedness is hamstrung by poor cellular service.

Barbara asked if the Plan should be forwarded for draft review to expedite the review process. Eric said that even though it is in review, it can still be edited. Harry moved to forward the draft for review, seconded by Paul, passed.

Item 5 -- New Business

Vacant Seat

Several people have expressed interest in filling the vacant seat on the planning commission including: Mark Frost, Rik Sassa, Julie Mach and India Burnett-Farmer.

Unified Bylaws

Due to time constraints, a discussion of the Unified Bylaws was postponed until the next meeting.

Item 6

Harry moved to adjourn, Gary seconded, meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Elsholz