

Minutes for Town of Pawlet Planning Commission
Pawlet Town Office
Pawlet, VT
Monday, September 22, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

John Thrasher
Wayne Clarke
Eric Mach
Harry van Meter
Lenny Gibson
Gary Baierlein

Members Not in Attendance

Fred Stone

Others in Attendance:

Paul Elsholz
Ed Bove, Executive Director, RRPC
Hilary Solomon, District Manager, PMNRCD
Kathy Doyle, Clerk

Item 1: Approval of Minutes August 2014

Eric M. made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2: Zoning Administrator Report

Eric said he received an application for a kennel which needs a permit as it is a conditional use. He received a complaint about an Air BnB located in the forest and agricultural zone. Guest houses are not a conditional or permitted use in this zone. Eric also received a list of other Air BnBs in town. John T. stated that if Eric received a complaint, the Zoning Administrator has the right to investigate and make a determination if there is a violation. John noted the planning commission (PC) has no say in the matter, but might investigate the appropriateness of the zoning regulations in the future.

Item 3: New Business

Hilary Solomon of PMNRCD announced that the district got half of the funding requested for the storm water Master Plan. Hilary passed out a document showing what has been deleted from the work plan and noted in particular that the Phase 2 geomorphic assessment was removed. Hilary stated that she would very much like to keep the Phase 1- mapping exercise in the project if possible. She noted that the septic assessment and the formation of a wastewater advisory group remain in the grant. Hilary said that a consultant would work on the project and she will keep the planning commission (PC) up to date on any developments. She indicated that the Center for Watershed Protection would like to test their water quality methods in a rural area, so it is possible that Pawlet would be included in their study next summer. Hilary expects to begin working on project after the paperwork is finalized in January. John asked if Pawlet needed to do anything. Hilary replied that it would be good to have a contact person from the PC on the advisory group. John suggested that Hilary contact Elizabeth Gibson to get the word out about the project to let people know it is coming and to solicit input.

Ed Bove presented a draft of the municipal planning grant (MPG) application that he has been working on with Eric and Barbara from the RRPC. He wanted to be sure that the PC still wished to apply for the \$8000 to revise the town plan. He stated that Pawlet last received a MPG in FY2011. Ed says that a resolution must be downloaded, filled in and signed by the Selectboard when the grant is sent in. The resolution authorizes the town to apply for a MPG. Eric says the Selectboard voted to submit an

application. Ed asked if anyone on the PC was authorized to use the Intelligrant system. John says he and the head of Selectboard are authorized and he could take the lead insuring that the resolution is completed and sent.

Ed also announced that through funding from the Dept. of Health, a health impacts study would be conducted in Pawlet on Oct. 23rd from 10 – noon. Individuals from RRPC and AARP will walk around the village to assess paving, sidewalks, streetscapes etc. to ascertain suitability for walkers. This information could be incorporated into the town plan. John suggested that Ed get information to Elizabeth Gibson so she can get a notice out.

Ed also requested help in updating the PC mailing list.

John announced upcoming meetings: *Finding Sweet Spot: New approaches to economic development* sponsored by the RRPC on October 1 and 2. He also received notice of an Agency of Natural Resources *Vermont's Ecology and Environment: an introduction to town planning for natural resources* trainings on November 1 during the annual summit of the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions and the Agency of Natural Resources Annual Municipal day on November 13th. John noted that he received a letter about obesity and the health planning grant from the RRPC.

John announced that he would be stepping down as a member of the PC due to work and personal commitments. He stated that it would be appropriate for the board to nominate and elect a new chair. John said he would nominate Harry Van Meter as Chair. Harry declined the nomination. Harry nominated Lenny Gibson. No second of the nomination. Eric inquired if he could serve as Chair. Harry nominated Eric. Wayne seconded the nomination. Eric was elected unanimously. Eric nominated Lenny as Secretary. Wayne seconded the nomination and Lenny was elected secretary by unanimous consent.

Gary noted that he received a letter of interest from someone wanting to serve on the PC and the letter was forwarded to the select board. John said he will contact Elizabeth Gibson to put out a notice requesting anyone interested in serving on the PC submit a letter to the PC and the Select Board before next meeting. John stated that he could continue on until September 30th to see that the MPG was filed and he said that he could ask the Select Board to rescind his resignation until the end of the month. Eric made a motion that such request be made to the Selectboard. The motion passed unanimously.

Eric recommended that the Board call a meeting to work on the MPG next Monday. A poll of those present indicated that there would not be a quorum. Ed suggested that the town modify the grant proposal to reflect local input. John recommended that the PC appoint someone from the board to revise the grant application and email it to the board. He suggested if there were concerns, a special meeting could be called. Lenny said he was willing to take a look at document and edit it. Wayne made a motion to appoint Lenny as liaison to the RRPC to work on the MPG. Harry seconded the motion which passed unanimously. A motion to appoint John to submit the application was made and passed unanimously.

Item 4: Old business

Harry asked for a review of a timeline for the plan completion. John provided the following summary of dates. The plan would need to be adopted by the Selectboard by the end of Nov. 2015. A public meeting needs to be warned 30 days prior to the November meeting. The PC should complete the plan by August in order to hold a warned hearing in September and to provide time for the PC to incorporate any changes and approve the plan before sending it to the Selectboard.

Harry thanked John for his service and PC members agreed that his leadership would be missed.

Item 6: Set Agenda for Next Meeting:

Approval of Minutes. Comments from the Audience. Zoning Administrator's Report. New Business. Old Business: review plan; invite anyone who submits letters of interest to the next meeting; make recommendation to the Selectboard regarding the vacancy. Set agenda for next meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Doyle, Clerk.