



Minutes for Town of Pawlet Planning Commission
Pawlet Town Office
Pawlet, VT
Monday, March 27, 2017
7:30 p.m.

Members Attending:

Gary Baierlein
Mark Frost
Melissa LaCount
Eric Mach

Members Absent:

Wayne Clarke
Rik Sassa
Harry Van Meter

Others Attending:

Paul Elsholz, clerk
Frank Nelson, West Pawlet

Eric called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Item 1: Meeting Agenda

Melissa made a motion to approve the meeting agenda; Eric seconded; motion passed.

Item 2: Minutes of January 23, 2017 and February 27, 2017

Gary made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/23/17; Mark seconded; motion passed.

Melissa made a motion to approve the minutes of 2/27/17; Eric seconded; motion passed.

Item 3: Public Comments

Frank discussed the energy fair scheduled for Saturday April 22 from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Vendors and experts will speak on subjects such as weatherization, heat pumps, Tesla Power Walls, automation and financing. For more information call 888-835-4672.

Frank continued by saying that the energy group plans to set up an event that addresses solar and wind energy at a later date.

Item 4: Zoning Administrator's report

None

Item 5: Economic Development and Infrastructure Improvements:

Eric reviewed some of the issues discussed at the last meeting. He wants to address the need for to make Pawlet more pedestrian-friendly but would like to have a professional planner evaluate the village centers first. He would hate to invest in new sidewalks only to find, a couple years later, that deteriorating drainage systems require their upheaval. It would be best to ensure the

structural integrity of the culverts and the proper placement of storm drains, prior to laying new sidewalks. Furthermore, good coordination with the State of Vermont will be necessary. The agency of transportation is responsible for maintaining state highways such as Route 30. The agency of natural resources oversees modifications in road drainage.

Gary reviewed some of the ways in which the town bylaws are obstacles to economic growth. He believes that by relaxing some of the regulations, businesses will be able to take advantage of more opportunities. A general discussion of the zoning regulations followed.

Item 6: Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the planning commission will be on April 24, 2017. The agenda is: 1) approve agenda 2) approve minutes 3) public comments 4) guest speaker from the Vermont Agency of Transportation 5) Zoning Administrator's report 5) a new clerk to replace Paul 6) set agenda for next meeting.

Gary made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Elsholz