



**Minutes for Town of Pawlet Planning Commission
Pawlet Town Office
Pawlet, VT
Monday, July 25, 2016
7:30 p.m.**

Members Attending:

**Wayne Clarke (remote)
Gary Baierlein
Paul Elsholz
Mark Frost
Melissa LaCount
Eric Mach
Harry Van Meter**

Members Absent:

none

Others Attending:

**Ed Bove, Rutland Regional Planning Commission
Frank Nelson, West Pawlet**

Wayne participated remotely via speaker phone.

Eric called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

Item 1: Meeting Agenda

Eric made a motion to add a guest speaker to the agenda. Paul moved approve the revised meeting agenda. Harry seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Item 2: Minutes of 6/27/2016 Meeting

Harry made a motion to approve the minutes; Mark seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Item 3: Guest Speaker - Ed Bove

Ed passed around copies of a poster for "Five Years Vermont Strong." This event features education, presentations, food, music and a hike to promote flood preparedness. It takes place August 28 on Edie Mach's lawn from 11am-2pm.

Ed continued by touching on other topics such as water quality, the Better Roads Grant, emergency management and energy legislation (Act 175). He said he was attending the meeting not just to speak but also to listen. The Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) wants to be a resource that municipalities can turn to when needed.

Frank asked if regulations such as setbacks can be controlled by town according to the new legislation. Ed answered yes, and that standards are being developed to avoid blanket statements. Regional plans supersede local plans but the RRPC works hard to maintain consistency between regional and local regulations.

The phone connection allowing Wayne to participate was poor earlier in the meeting and was lost completely at this point.

Item 4: Public Comments

Frank informed the commission that he was concerned by the absence of fish in the local streams. He also showed the commission a blank copy of a petition he plans to circulate. It is intended to persuade the Planning Commission to modify the zoning rules in West Pawlet to improve the parking situation.

Item 5: Zoning Administrator's Report

No new business to report.

Item 6: Flood Hazard/River Corridor Regulations

The board continued reviewing a draft of regulations that combines the Town's Flood Hazard standards with its River Corridor statutes.

An exemption for "normal maintenance and repair of existing structures . . . ," that is already in the current bylaws was inserted into the new language. (See draft page 5).

The proper use of abbreviations was debated. Harry moved that the abbreviations such as "ZA," "DRB," "FIRM," and "NFIP" be spelled for clarity. Gary seconded. Motion passed.

Gary moved to replace the existing separate regulations with the new combined regulations. Harry seconded; motion was approved unanimously. (Wayne was absent). The new regulations will be subject to public review before their final approval by the Selectboard.

Item 7: Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting scheduled for August 22, 2016.

The agenda is: 1) approve agenda 2) approve the minutes 3) public comments 4) Zoning Administrator's report 5) zoning district review.

Paul moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Elsholz