



**Minutes for Town of Pawlet Planning Commission
Pawlet Town Office
Pawlet, VT
Monday, May 23, 2016
7:30 p.m.**

Members Attending:

**Gary Baierlein
Paul Elsholz
Mark Frost
Melissa LaCount
Eric Mach
Harry Van Meter**

Members Absent:

Wayne Clarke

Others Attending:

**Frank Nelson, West Pawlet
Elysa Smigielski, Rutland Regional Planning Commission**

Eric called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

Item 1: Meeting Agenda

Paul moved to approve the meeting agenda; Mark seconded; motion passed.

Item 2: Minutes of April 25, 2016 Meeting

Harry moved to accept the minutes with corrections; Mark seconded; motion passed.

Item 3: Public Comments

Elysa distributed a checklist which includes flood resiliency project opportunities and helps to ensure that the Town's documentation (including the Town Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, Transportation Plans and Zoning Bylaws) consistently promotes flood preparedness.

Next she spoke about "Weathering the Storm"--an event geared towards flood preparedness. In addition to Pawlet residents, members from the communities of Tinmouth and Danby are encouraged to attend. If it is possible for residents, members of the planning commission or other town officials to attend meetings in Tinmouth or Danby, it would help facilitate the tri-town event. Contact Hilary Solomon (hilary@pnmrcd.org) or Elysa at (elysa@rutlandrpc.org) for details.

Item 4: Zoning Administrator Report

Eric gave the Zoning administrators report. Following the review from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, the boundaries of the village center boundaries of Pawlet map stayed the same. However, the village center in West Pawlet was shortened.

Item 5: Parking

Paul said that based on a discussion with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, parking is an issue best left for the select board. Eric pointed out that parking lots in flood plains and parking requirements for new developments do fall within the domain of the planning commission. He also said that excess density will change character of the town. Frank said that rental income may encourage investment, so parking is important. Melissa replied that that if we consider all the empty buildings in West Pawlet, it is clear that parking is not the issue that is discouraging investment. Eric took a poll of the Commission to see who wanted to change the parking density. No one expressed interest.

Item 6: Unified Bylaws

After a discussion of what a Park and Ride is, and possible sites, Gary moved that Park and Ride become a conditional use in areas zoned village commercial or industrial. Harry seconded; the motion passed unanimously. The language may include a time limit to prevent the long-term parking of junk cars.

Paul agreed to email commission members copies of the unified bylaws and potential language for flood hazard regulations.

Item 7. Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2016. The agenda is: 1) approve agenda 2) approve the minutes 3) public comments 4) election for commission posts 5) Zoning Administrator's Report and 6) flood hazard/river corridor regulations.

Paul moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Elsholz