



Minutes for Town of Pawlet Planning Commission
Pawlet Town Office
Pawlet, VT
Monday, November 23, 2015
7:30 pm

Members Attending:

Wayne Clarke
Gary Baierlein
Paul Elsholz
Mark Frost
Melissa LaCount
Eric Mach

Members Absent:

Harry Van Meter

Others Attending:

Sarah Ludlam, Pawlet
Barbara Noyes Pulling, Rutland Regional Planning Commission
Frank Nelson, West Pawlet
Hilary Solomon, Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District

Eric called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Item 1: Approval of Meeting Agenda

Paul moved to approve the meeting agenda with an additional item--a discussion of the process of writing the Town Plan. Wayne seconded; motion passed.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 10/26/15 meeting were reviewed. A last name was added for completeness. Paul moved to approve the minutes. Melissa seconded; motion passed.

Item 3: Audience

Hilary said the PMNRCD plans to hold a make-up meeting regarding the stormwater project on either 12/4/15 or 12/18/15. For the exact date and time, email her at pnmrcd@gmail.com.

Additionally, Hilary has obtained a small grant to do a landscape analysis of Flower Brook that will focus on erosion, the identification of vegetation and sources/sinks of phosphorus. Anyone interested in volunteering to help can reach her at pnmrcd@gmail.com.

Item 4: New business

Eric said that because Deb Hawkins was going away, he asked her in advance to warn the next meeting. It is scheduled for 12/28/15 at 7:30pm and will include a public hearing for the town plan. As soon as Barbara makes the final edits, it needs to be forwarded to Elizabeth Gibson to allow for public draft review. Adjacent towns should also be warned.

Item 5: Town Plan

The Town Plan (draft version of 11/12/15) was reviewed page by page. Several small (but often important) edits were made with regard to the choice of words, consistency, redundancy, wordiness and sentence structure. The larger changes are outlined here.

1) Two paragraphs in the agriculture section on page 14 were repeated word-for-word on page 15. The first instance was deleted.

2) Hilary suggested changes that cleaned up the language dealing with stormwater drainage. Improvements were also made in the water section.

3) Gary pointed out that in Appendix B, "Question Averages and Interpretation" was difficult to interpret and not very informative. The table was removed.

4) Similarly the "Written Responses Roughly Categorized" was removed. It may be instructive for the select board, but it is not appropriate for the Town Plan.

Neither the Unified Bylaws nor the process of writing the Town Plan was discussed due to the late hour.

Item 6: Schedule for the Next Meeting--12/28/15

Approve Agenda; Approve Minutes of 11/23/15; Public Hearing of Draft Town Plan; Unified Bylaws; Set agenda for next meeting

Paul moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 pm; Gary seconded; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Elsholz