

**Draft Minutes**  
**Town of Pawlet Planning Commission Meeting**  
**Monday, September 28, 2020, 7:30pm**  
**Meeting via Zoom platform**

**Members present:**

Rik Sassa, Secretary/clerk  
Tom Collard, Vice Chairman  
Gary Baierlein  
Frank Nelson  
Jessica Van Oort  
Mark Frost  
John Sabotka

**Members absent:**

**Item 1. Call to Order:**

Tom Collard called the meeting to order at 7:33pm

**Item 2. Approval of Agenda Items- Review/Add/Delete:**

Gary Baierlein made a motion to accept the agenda. Jessica Van Oort seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Item 3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting:**

John Sabotka made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Gary seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Item 4. Replacement of Chairperson:**

Gary made a motion to nominate Jessica as chairperson seconded by Mark Frost. All commissioners present approved Jessica's election to the seat.

Tom abdicated his position as Vice Chairperson on the commission. Frank Nelson nominated John as Vice Chairperson. Gary seconded the nomination. A vote was taken, and John was elected to the seat.

**Item 5. Zoning Administrator's Report- Jonas Rosenthal:**

Tom noted that there were two boxes of information for Jessica. Frank commented on the farm exemption if the farmer is in compliance with the state's requirements. Tom wanted to know from Jonas if the commissioners were meant to have a later discussion on what Jonas had sent out. Frank found the manuals confusing and asked Representative Robin Chestnut-Tangerman who also found sections unclear. Hillary gave an overview of the project that involves the watershed of the head waters that feed Flower Brook, she wanted to have someone from Pawlet to get involved with her project. She will talk more in-depth when she gets on a future planning commission agenda.

**Item 6. Rutland Regional Commission Report- Tom Collard:**

Tom attend a meeting involving the Vtrans plans for passenger trains and freight cars. Open house for rail on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>. He was unable to attend the planning

commission. From the minutes he noted several topics that were covered by the Rutland Regional planning commission. Wayne Clarke expressed an interest in light rail on the D and H right of way. Tom said there was no mention of it in the minutes. Tom suggested that Wayne could go to the open house to get more information or make suggestions.

**Item 7. Discussion of Topics and On-going Business:**

Tom suggested that Jessica would want to review past minutes to get up to speed. John and Jessica both agreed that they should go back on. Frank thought that reviewing Harry's notes as well as the minutes would be helpful. Gary mentioned that he wanted to go back to some of the conditional uses to deal with several businesses that are in violation currently and try to make the conditional uses more friendly to business. Gary said that since one of the main reasons that he joined the commission was to make it easier for businesses in town so he said he would write something up to talk about.

**Item 8. Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

**Item 9. Old Business:**

Frank wanted to talk about an issue from several years back. It was a solar farm project. At the time Lenny Gibson put language in the By-laws that included mentions of climate change. Gary noted from that time that farming has changed and prime ag land is growing up weeds and roses. Gary thought that even if the land was used for non-agricultural uses it would be better than them not being used at all. Frank wondered if the town should be consulted to see if climate change language should be added to future by-laws.

**Item 10. New Business:**

Tom added to the new business that he would be more than glad to share what ever information he has. He thanked Jessica and John for their willingness to step up to this challenge. John was wondering about a recording secretary. There was no new information regarding that.

**Item 11. Set Agenda for next meeting:**

1. Call to Order 7:30 2. Approval of Agenda Items - Review/Add/Delete 7:31 3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting 7:33 4. Replacement of Chairperson 7:40 5. Zoning Administrator's Report – Jonas Rosenthal 7:45 6. Rutland Regional Planning Commission Report – Tom Collard 8:00 7. Discussion of Topics & On-going Business 8:05 8. Public Comments 8:25 9. Old Business 8:35 10. New business 8: 45 11. Set Agenda for the next meeting 8:55 12. Adjournment 9:00

**Item 12. Adjournment:**

Gary motioned to adjourn, Frank seconded. All agreed, the motion was passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Rik Sassa, secretary.