

Draft Minutes
TOWN OF PAWLET SELECTBOARD
Special Meeting
January 30, 2024
7:00 pm
Pawlet Town Hall
122 School Street, Pawlet, VT
& Virtually via Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Bob Jones
Mike Beecher
Jessica Van Oort
Rich Hulett

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers
Ruth Lampi
Harley Cudney
Lyndsi Barnes
Martha Schoenemann
Bradley Meyerson
Sue LaPorte
Jennifer Spademan
Bob Schoenemann
Michael Allen
John Sabotka
Deb Hawkins
Lucy Norman
Frank Nelson
Phoebe McChesney
Scott McChesney
Kathryn Lawrence

EVENT

1. Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chair, Mike Beecher, with the pledge of allegiance and an overview of the rules of procedure at 7:00pm.
2. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items:
 - a. One amendment to the agenda: to remove Executive Session.
3. Mike Beecher introduced Jessica Van Oort, Chair of the Pawlet Planning Commission, who provided an overview to the Town Plan and proposed changes made by the Planning Commission.
 - a. Reported that not many changes have been made since the last version of the plan, published in 2016, however highlighted updated data and statistics which have taken place throughout the past eight years.
 - b. Chairman Beecher opened the floor for questions/comments from the public body:
 - i. Lucy Norman inquired about how the plan specifically addresses to the West Pawlet Village Master Plan.
 1. Jessica Van Oort shared that these reference items are located on page 74. Discussions continued.
 - ii. Martha Schoenemann asked a question regarding page 32's mention of the lack of cellular coverage in town, inquiring about how the Town plans to go from observation to action.
 1. The Board spoke to this, identifying the hurdles beyond the local level involved in establishing infrastructure for improved cellular coverage.
 - iii. Lucy Norman asked if the Town still has an Energy Group.
 1. Frank Nelson confirmed that the Planning Commission is the acting Energy Group in Town. Discussions continued amongst the Board and Body regarding an interest in having the Town research the installation of electric vehicle chargers in the future.
 - iv. Michael Allen stated that he is in support of the adoption of the Town Plan, and was pleased with its mention in the Town Plan. Mr. Allen suggested directly referencing the Town plan in the section addressing the West Pawlet

Waste Water Treatment Facility. Continued to suggest adding the Town Plan to Pawlet's website to ensure the link is active for years to come when the plan is reviewed.

- v. Lucy Norman encouraged the plan to recognize Neighbor-to-Neighbor in the transportation section, which is an organization that supports individuals in need of transportation assistance.
 - 1. Discussions continued regarding volunteer opportunities in the community.
 - vi. Bob Schoenemann inquired as to whether Town Zoning is a part of the Town Plan. The Board confirmed that the Town Plan does not cover zoning, however this topic will be discussed at a future meeting.
 - 1. Jessica Van Oort spoke to the relationship between the Town Plan and the Unified Bylaws. The Town Plan is a document that holds legal force, so this document could be utilized when considering various scenarios in the future.
 - vii. Martha Schoenemann referenced page 34's mention of the Mettawee Valley Community Center, expressing curiosity of the plan for future use of this space as it relates to the Town Plan.
 - 1. The Board acknowledged that the Mettawee Valley Community Center is an item which will be located on the ballot during Town Meeting.
 - viii. Linda Lynton expressed that it would be beneficial to have maps included in the Town Plan. Jessica Van Oort clarified that there are some maps available in the appendix section of the Town Plan
4. The Board acknowledged the items discussed during the meeting, and Jessica Van Oort confirmed that the Plan can be updated following the comments and suggestions made by the public body, and the Town Plan can still be voted on during the special meeting scheduled for 1/31/24.
- a. Following the Board's vote, the Town Plan will be sent to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission.
5. Motion made to adjourn at 7:36pm

- a. Mover: Rich Hulett
- b. 2nd: Bob Jones
- c. Discussion: None
- d. Result: Approved