

Town of Pawlet
Planning Commission Meeting
Monday, February 26, 2024 7:30pm
Meeting at townhall and
via Zoom platform

Members present:

Jessica Van Oort, Chairperson
John Sabotka, Vice Chairperson
Rik Sassa, Clerk/Secretary
Frank Nelson
Gary Baierlein
Harley Cudney
Nancy Morlino (Pawlet Zoning Administrator)
Wayne Clarke (Alternate member)
Logan Solomon from RRPC (via zoom)
Cori Rail, Pawlet resident (via zoom)
Jennifer Spade (via zoom)
Duncan McKegan, Pawlet resident

Members absent:

Mark Frost

Item 1. Call to Order:

Jessica called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

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

Frank wanted to add a conversation regarding what to do with the grant money recently secured. Agenda approved with that one addition.

Item 3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting:

Gary Baierlein moved to approve last minutes, Harley Cudney seconded, all approved.

Item 4. Zoning Administrator's Report- Nancy Morlino:

Nancy Morlino said that the document scans are finished up through 2007. She mentioned that there is a wide screen printer for Frank to make posters regarding flur cameras. She wanted to talk about containers soon since the assessors are going out to view town properties soon. The issue is; no permit is required for a year to use large storage containers but, a permit is needed for a longer term shed use of storage containers. Harley wanted to know how they are assessed. Nancy said there is a value associated with the container since it covers square footage. Nancy clarified that this is not a change to the bylaws; it is a square footage building issue. John asked about the demolition and permits. There is nothing in the bylaws regarding demolition. John also asked whether assessors lower assessments when a building is removed. Nancy said yes.

Item 5. Rutland Regional Commission Report- John Sabotka and Harley Cudney:

John's reported that the town of Hubbardton's town plan was coming up for approval. It didn't meet the state's new statutes. He was concerned whether we were going to have problems since Pawlet doesn't have these statutes listed. Logan Solomon suggested that we send the town plan to him to look it over. Jessica said she would send a copy to Logan. Frank was concerned that the commission did everything that it was supposed to do and wanted to know if we made it by the deadline. Logan said that he would look it over and get back to the commission to make sure everything was acceptable.

Item 6. Otter Creek Communications Union District Report and Municipal Planning Grant Report- Jessica Van Oort:

Jessica reported that OCCUD is moving ahead. She has a list of all the names of townspeople that will be getting the build out. She said Fidium Fiber is the contractor and it looks like the rates are comparable.

Frank spoke about V-trans and the Rail Trail council and the possibility of putting E chargers on the property where the rail trail parking area is. Frank told them that the grant could pay for it but V-trans' first comment was "no".

Frank also spoke about the two new flur cameras that the town was able to purchase via a grant. Contractors could use them to do energy retro fits on Pawlet homes. The grant was for \$4000. About \$1600 was spent on the cameras, the rest is being discussed what the best uses could be. This is where the large printer could be of use to notify residents at the up-coming informational pre-town meeting. Jessica wondered if a professional could be hired to offer a workshop on how to use the cameras. Frank said there were instructional videos out there.

Jessica also thought maybe teaming up with one of the weatherization agencies to show direct advantages of the cameras.

Jessica said that there was a feasibility study on a building owned by a resident in West Pawlet to be part of the rail trail parking area. The engineers said that the amount of work required to transition that building would be prohibitive. Since the building plan was decided against there is now money available if the grant gets amended. Jessica felt like the grant would be approved if the expenditures were consistent with the overall plan. Otherwise the grant money will be lost.

Item 7. Public comments: Bylaw repeal petition.

Nancy commented on the absence of municipal water in Pawlet and the conflict and confusion around single family and duplex with municipal water.

Item 8. On-going Business:

Jessica returned to the updating of the bylaws. Jessica had sent some information from the state regarding state statutes that she got from Logan. Logan spoke about the changes to housing required that the legislature clarified.

Item 9. Set Agenda for next meeting

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. Zoning Administrator's Report – Nancy Morlino 7:35 5. Rutland Regional Planning Commission Report 7:40 6. Otter Creek Communications Union District Report and Municipal Planning Grant report 7:45 7. Public Comments 7:50 8. On-going Business: Bylaws Updates continued 8:00 9. Set Agenda for the next meeting 8:55 10. Adjournment 9:00

Item 11. Adjournment:

Gary motioned for adjournment and Frank seconded all approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:07pm

Respectfully submitted, Rik Sassa, Secretary/Clerk