

Town of Pawlet
Planning Commission Meeting
Monday, November 25, 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

Mark Frost

Harley Cudney

Nancy Morlino (Pawlet Zoning Administrator)

Eric Lubinsky (public via Zoom)

Jeremy Gildrin (Rutland Regional Planning Commission)

Members absent:

Wayne Clarke (Alternate member)

Gary Baierlein

Item 1. Call to Order:

Jessica called the meeting to order at 7:35pm

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

Agenda as is, Frank wanted to set a date for a training seminar for mini grant cameras.

Item 3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting:

Rik Sassa moved to approve last minutes, Harley seconded all approved.

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

Nancy Morlino reported 33 permits to date. She sent out 16 notices to short term rental owners for registration. She spoke about the Tree grant which is for disadvantaged communities up to \$25k for tree removal. Pictures would be needed of problem trees and then removal quotes from an arborist. She spoke about properties in town that want to have a guest house built and there is nothing in the zoning regarding it. Nancy was suggesting that the commission think about how to address that in the bylaws. Some thought was to perhaps expand the size of the ADU allowed in the bylaws.

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

John's report: A new senior planner on the regional planning commission was elected. Better roads grant application 12/27, municipal highway due 12/31/24. He went through a list of grant deadlines. State police barracks sight for project is pending. Jessica noted a 440k grant for upgrade of exterior and heat pump, and potentially battery backup (energy upgrades and transitions) on the town offices building.

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

Jessica said there is less to report since the broadband has been built out. There was a question about whether the rate would go up in the subsequent years and the answer was yes, it will go up 10 dollars. They are thinking about having less meetings going forward. Frank commented that if all the people in West Pawlet also got the highspeed internet as well then the fees could be locked in through a franchise process that Fidium offers (it would be considered bulk buying). Jessica said that Fidium has to have competitive pricing throughout Vermont (since there is no competition in Pawlet, it would be based upon other providers in areas where there is competition). Frank asked if Fidium has any income adjustments to their pricing. Jessica did not know the answer to that.

Frank spoke about the railtrail council report. He said that Rupert was also very hesitant to get involved with Vtrans (who owns the trail) in a lease agreement. The last bit of the grant was amended to put a picnic bench and parking lot in Rupert on the trail. Benches and bike repair stand have all been order.

Item 7. Public comments:

There were no public comments.

Item 8. On-going Business:

Jeremy from Rutland Regional Planning Commission spoke about the advanced energy plan. His impression was that the PPC was 90% there on their energy plan. New mapping is now available and will need to be updated in the plan. There is an equity analysis that will need to

be done. He said there is funding coming up that may allow him to work with the town. He wanted to know if the planning commission wanted him to work with the town, the commission was in favor of this. Jessica asked the commissioners to get familiar with the plan we have to date and compare it to the boiler plate plan that the regional planning commission used with another town.

Frank wanted to schedule another training event so that townspeople can check out the cameras for individual use. The timing for the training event was postponed until the beginning of the new year.

Frank was adamant about having the solar component in the \$440k grant for the energy cost reduction upgrade to town office. The sticking point is that the solar has to be on the building in question and the building in question is on the historic registry and as such solar panels on a historic slate roof would not be acceptable.

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:

Mark motioned for adjournment and Rik seconded all approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm