

**Town of Pawlet**  
**Planning Commission Meeting**  
**Monday, February 23, 2025 7:30pm**

**Members present:**

Annie Nash, Chairperson

Rik Sassa, Secretary/Clerk

Frank Nelson

Mark Frost

Nancy Morlino, Pawlet Zoning Administrator

**Members absent:**

Gary Baierlein, Vice Chairperson

Linda Lynton

1. Call to Order 7:28

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

- Chris Pritchard will come in to discuss what would be involved to change speed limit in Pawlet center. Nancy Morlino had something from RRPC that may need approval. Nancy wasn't sure what exactly needed to be done and since Linda Lynton was not present (she was at the RRPC meeting). Annie Nash said she would check with Linda. Mark Frost moved to approve the agenda and Frank Nelson seconded, all approved.

● 3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting:

Frank moved to approve previous minutes, Rik Sassa seconded , all approved.

4. Organizational:

- Nancy noted that her term as the Pawlet/West Pawlet zoning administrator is coming to an end and she is not interested in continuing. She said she had originally signed on as a temporary administrator and has served that time . Annie said that the PPC will be putting out feelers for those that are interested.
- Railtrail report by Frank Nelson: He said there was an issue on the NY side involving a problem situation. The council now meets every other month. He said it would be a big boon to have the railtrail go from Castleton, VT to Salem, NY.
- Chris Pritchard, Pawlet town representative, spoke about the issue involving the intersection in the center of Pawlet. He spoke to Secretary Flinn who said that he would deal with it directly. The town needs to write down specifically the concerns and what needs to be done to address it. Secretary Flinn will get the information to Traffic Operations. Leon Corey noted that the town's signage needs some work and the speed limit probably needs to be dropped as well in that area or at least moved further

back down the road to give people time to slow down. Chris said he was eager to help move the situation forward in whatever way he could.

- Chris also wanted to bring the board's attention to ACT 181. The governor vetoed this bill but it moved forward anyway. Chris felt this bill, "Act 250 on steroids", will affect farmers and many other towns members. According to this bill, anything over 200 square feet will have to go through Act 250 process. The road rule of 800ft will also have an impact (this will extend to even private driveways). Chris said the bill is currently in the Environment Committee and he thought it was unlikely to move from there. Leon wanted to know who would enforce this if it was adopted. Chris said a land review board would be established. Leon thought the permit process would be lengthy and if it is anything like the septic requirements, there won't be much enforcement. Chris was more supportive of house bill H730. Annie also mentioned the possibility of a cell phone tower in Pawlet and Chris said when that issue comes forward he will get back to the board.
- Annie proposed that the PPC board review both Act 181 and H730 in the next two weeks and message her back their opinions and if the board is in agreement she will write a letter to send to the Environment Committee. Nancy and Annie will work on writing up a proposal for the speed limit sign. The board discussed that Annie and or Nancy will go to the next Selectboard meeting to get their views as well for the letter to be sent to Traffic Operations (via Chris Pritchard/ Secretary Flinn).
- Frank wanted to explain some problem points on the draft FLU map from the state he handed out. Annie said that Devon would need a letter from the town specifying the changes needed.

#### 5. Public Comments:

- No public comments.

#### 6. Set Agenda for the next meeting:

Mark moved to approve the next month's agenda, Frank seconded, all approved

- Ongoing business.
- Public comment.
- All else remains the same.

#### 11. Adjournment

- Mark moved to adjourn, Rik seconded and all approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm

Respectfully submitted, Rik Sassa, Secretary/Clerk