



# TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

Planning Commission  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
Tuesday, 11/15/2022

6:30pm Public Hearing, 7:00pm PC Meeting

St.J. Welcome Center

## *Minutes*

Confirm Quorum of Members Present:

Jim Brown, Chair   x   Ben Copans, Vice chair   x   Ed Behr, Clerk   x   Larry Dolan   x   Open       

Others attending: Paul Berlejung, ZA, Kim Behr, Keith Chamberlin, Gillian Sewake, Larry Golden, Jodie Fried, Alicin Bergman, Willie Nickerson, Chad Whitehead

### **Planning Commission meeting**

1. Open Meeting. 7:02
2. Agenda changes. None.
3. Public Comment. None.
4. Minutes approval, 10/18/2022. Motion to approve minutes by Ed, Larry 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.
5. Manager's Report. J. MacDonald in winter shut down on Gilman, Pleasant St. House at 55 Portland has offers, too low at this point. LVRT still moving forward. Knob property management group needed.
6. ZA Report. Lots of numbers up, for permits, certificates of compliance. Numbers down for vacant structures. Long term residences number below actual number of apartments. Amount of collections lower than budgeted amount.
7. Signs and Lighting, Public Art Commission, Mural guidelines. Ed read enforcement guidelines for bylaws. DAC as Public Arts Commission. Larry Golden, Kim Behr, Jodie Fried, all spoke concerning art in the community. Jodie mentioned his communication with VT Arts person, Michelle Bailey. She said that the work done was an exceptional amount of work. Recommended a process. Public arts master plan, and then regulations and bylaws concerning art. Also, it was stated there is a need for stake holders to be on the arts commission. There was mention of how art in public affects the community. Also, separate signs and lighting from public art issues for bylaws work. Some discussion concerning specific sign sizes, acceptable and unacceptable. Idea of streetscapes integral to proper signage. Some discussion concerning the process of sign approval, particularly having two groups, DAC and DRB, to make decisions. PC was split on next moves. The chair recommended a motion to table the bylaw changes until the next meeting. Motion to table by Larry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ben. Motion passed. Will be on the agenda for next meeting.
8. Municipal Planning Grant, local lodging facilities. Gillian presented. Grant request due 12/01/2022 The chair signed a support paper for the grant. Question raised concerning any conflict or negative effects on other grants in process. Strong assurances there were no adverse effects on other grants. Motion to accept the grant by Ben, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry. Motion passed.
9. Animal husbandry zoning issues. Chair presented some bylaws and guidance from CT zoning in various CT towns. Zones for chickens would be Res A, Res B, Health zone. Questions about other towns in the area, zoning for livestock in town and if other towns have prohibited any livestock in towns. Point made concerning the need to consider civil ordinances to enforce livestock restrictions and guides. Discussion concerning water quality issues surrounding livestock waste. Questions around town citizens for or against livestock in town. The nimby issue was raised during the discussion. Will be on the next agenda.
10. Emergency shelter, definitions, changes, Section 441. Motion to table till next meeting by Ben, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry. Motion passed.
11. Town Plan. Agenda item because a new planning session needs to start next year. Current document was shown to the commission.
14. Other business. None.
15. Close meeting. Motion by Ben, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed. Motion passed. 9:03pm.