



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

Planning Commission
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
Tuesday, 12/20/2022
7:00pm PC Meeting

St.J. Welcome Center and Zoom

Minutes

Confirm Quorum of Members Present:

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

Others attending: Paul Berlejung, Chad Whitehead, Gillian Sewake, Jeffrey Sewake, Scott Beck, Andy Dusseault, Ann, Campbell, Alicin and Scott Bergman, Chloe Ashton, Jeff Musson

Planning Commission meeting

1. Open Meeting. 7pm
2. Agenda changes. None.
3. Public Comment. Andy Dusseault, questions concerning Mayhew Dr solar field. Preferred site ok'd at September meeting. No longer a town issue. Chad will help him further address the PUC.
4. Minutes approval, 11/15/2022. Motion by Larry, 2nd by Ed, minutes approved with noted changes.
5. Manager's Report. Continuing budget work.
6. ZA Report. Good numbers up, bad numbers down, in regard to permits and other zoning issues.
7. Signs and Lighting, Public Art Commission, Mural guidelines. Ed presented first, concerning updates and changes. Mentioned difficulty in getting volunteers onto various committees in town. Presented, again, materials concerning other locations, towns, with similar bylaws. More info from Michele Bailey, VT Arts, and Keith Chamberlin, sign designer. Discussion concerning projecting, over-hanging signs. Gillian, against all proposed changes. Length of process and meetings, for sign approval, are an issue. Murals are ok on sides of buildings, no need to additional structure fastened to building for a mural. Jeffrey Sewake, must have master public arts plan before a public arts commission. Need professionals on a public arts commission. Leaving a void was ok. Mentioned difficulties for the public to understand lighting requirements. Alicin, separate signs and lighting from public art commission. Chloe, arts economy in VT. Scott Beck, prioritize sign fit to the building. Chad, it's the Design Control District with strong regulatory process. DAC should not be the group promoting public art, their duties and responsibilities are different. Chair presented motion to separate signs and lighting from public arts commission and murals. Motion made by Ben, 2nd by Ed to separate signs and lighting from public arts commission and murals. Motion passed.
8. Animal husbandry zoning issues. Chair brought to the table that Newport City prohibits any animals unless the property has 3 acres. More info, requested about numbers of animals, animals prohibited, size of land. More work to be done and will be on next agenda.
9. Emergency shelter, definitions, changes, Section 441. More discussion and consideration for a shelter, for homeless persons and families.
10. Town Plan. Creative Economy. Chair presented places in Town Plan where the creative economy is already mentioned. Need for more specific wording was discussed, with a Municipal Planning Grant as a means to research more development concerning public art and the creative economy.
11. Other business. None.
12. Close meeting. Ben motion, Ed 2nd. Motion passed. 8:59pm.