



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

Planning Commission
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
Tuesday, 3/28/2023
7:00pm PC Meeting
St.J. Welcome Center
Minutes

Confirm Quorum of Members Present:

Jim Brown, Chair_x___ Ben Copans, Vice chair_x___ Larry Dolan_x___ Open___ Open___

Others attending: Paul Berlejung

Planning Commission meeting

1. Open Meeting. 7:11
2. Agenda changes. None.
3. Public Comment. None
4. Minutes approval, 1/17/2023. Ben motion, 2nd by Larry. Motion passed to approve minutes.
5. Manager's Report. Chair read short report from the Town Manager. Report included info concerning bids for traffic diet at Railroad and S. Main, plans for opening the LVRT to downtown, Fair Housing Act training, need for legal council concerning homeless shelter bylaws.
6. ZA Report. Info concerning housing issues, meeting to plan for refugees, illegal immigrants' passages through town.
7. Signs and Lighting. Clean up and simply, make changes to Ed's bylaw updates for signs. Loosen regulations. Lighting bylaws are complicated. Ben will send updated document to chair, Larry.
8. Animal husbandry zoning issues. Read through animal husbandry issues in Essex, VT. Decided on bylaws to include animal husbandry definition, setbacks, 6 female chickens max, lot size .25a, in back of property. Conditional use permit in zones A, B.
9. Emergency shelter, definitions, changes, Section 441. This is the definition, currently, for a homeless shelter. "Shelter means any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide a temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness in general or for a specific population of people experiencing homelessness, AND which does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements. This includes temporary seasonal/warming shelters, motel stays, day shelters and apartments owned or leased by the grantee and intended for short-term stay only." Conditional use in mixed use, commercial. Possibly industrial. Already in the health zone. Not in R1, R2. Chair will submit this definition to town manager as preliminary to legal council concerning homeless shelter definition.
10. Other business. Chair again mentioned the need for web site update to bylaw changes. Bylaw changes are at the changes from 2020. Ben mentioned an email from Town Manager indicating how the changes are to occur. Chair asked Ben to forward that email to him, for means of understanding the process involved.
11. Close meeting. Larry motion, Ben 2nd. Motion passed. 8:23