



# TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

Planning Commission  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
Tuesday, 11/21/2023  
7:00pm PC Meeting  
St.J. Welcome Center

## *Minutes*

Confirm Quorum of Members Present:

Jim Brown, Chair  Ben Copans, Vice chair  Larry Dolan, Clerk  a  Ben Deede  Open

Others attending: Matt Walsh, Rich Lyon

Planning Commission meeting

1. Open Meeting. 7:13
2. Agenda changes. None.
3. Public Comment. None.
4. Minutes approval. 10/17/2023, there was no meeting on 10/17/2023. Chair tested positive for Covid.
5. Backyard chickens' bylaws. What's happened. Rich Lyon came to the meeting for the public hearing, (the public hearing was scheduled at 6:30pm, he arrived upstairs at the conference room after 7pm.) we had cancelled, (will work on cancelled meeting protocol, as, put a notice on the regular meeting agenda noting cancelled public hearing) due to improper notification procedure. He voiced his opposition to the bylaw, giving 6 examples as to why. 1. Not specifics regarding the building or structure to house the chickens, 2. Lack of enforcement, 3. Not enough information(health code, etc.)4. .2 a lot size was not a standard lot size for Zone A or B, 5. What was the health code, give more specifics, 6. He mentioned a registration process in order to have backyard chickens. WE listened, discussed, thanked him for his input. After more discussion, a motion was made to table the public hearing, bring it back to the PC for further review and discussion. Motion by Ben C., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ben D., motion passed. It will be on the next agendas. Ben C. will forward info from Willie Nickerson, email, concerning other towns bylaws concerning backyard animals. Matt and Ben D. will give further review to the info.
6. Manager's Report. Chair reviewed the SB agenda from 11/13/2023.
7. ZA Report. Lots of movement happening in and around town with land and properties.
8. Place Sense bylaw modernization info and discussion. Read through current changes to consider on our bylaws. Discussed when to include DRB, probably in February, a joint meeting, to include Place Sense. Also, when to include DAC, probably a separate meeting, maybe include Place Sense. Matt will contact P.S., to highlight nonnegotiable changes. Place Sense will be covering our current zones, with consideration for changes, at our meeting on 12/04/2023.
9. Continue work on Town Plan redo for 2025. Discussed other towns' town plan, updating Ben D. and Matt with that info. More work needs to be done with planning ahead for meetings and input from different sectors of the community.
10. Other business. None.
11. Close meeting. Motion by Ben C., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ben D., motion passed. 8:55