



TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

Planning Commission
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
Tuesday 06/18/2024
7:00pm Meeting
St.J. Welcome Center
Minutes

Confirm Quorum of Members Present:

Jim Brown, Chair __x__ Ben Copans, Vice chair __x__ Larry Dolan, Secretary __x__ Ben Deede __x__ Open ____
Others attending: ZA, Town Manager.

Planning Commission meeting

1. Open Meeting. 7:04
2. Agenda changes. None.
3. Public Comment. From the PC chair, Celtics won.
4. Approval of Minutes from 05/21/2024. Motion by Larry, 2nd by Ben, approve with noted changes. Motion passed
5. Town plan. Continued work on form and topics. Continued work with VT Town Plan planning. Continued work on questionnaire and outreach. Discuss timetable. Next PC meeting plans.
 - a. Re-adopt TP...? No. Get it done in time, 5/07/2024.
 - b. Questionnaire. TP topics remain with 14. Decided not to do a separate business questionnaire. Discover StJ questionnaire pertained to downtown businesses. Useable items from that.
 - c. Request ARPA info from Chad. This week. Consultant worked with town for priorities. Strong focus on recreation in St. J. Email digital questionnaire first. Ready to be out during week of 6/24. Deleted the energy question. Request info from NEK C. of C. 25 hard copies per location. Chair has 2 to 3 places ready to accept TP 2025 questionnaire. Discussed directions to complete, where to send it back to. All outreach finished by Labor Day, 9/02/2024.
 - d. Priorities. From Town Manager, infrastructure, population growth, housing, recreation, arts and culture.
 - e. We are building our TP 2025 from TP 2017.
 - f. Police chief, fire chief to review TP 2025.
 - g. More work on details concerning housing, recreation. Use census info from 2020. Larry would research that piece.
 - h. Press release for TP 2025. Include info concerning the questionnaire.
6. Bylaw Modernization, Act 47 info meeting with SB. Additional updates to VT statutes and laws regarding Act 250, HOME act. Plan for PC public hearing, SB public hearing. Look at Sept., October for final draft and public hearings.
 - a. Town Manager will give updates to SB concerning Bylaw Modernization changes. That info is available to them and others in Town government.
 - b. Special meeting on first Tuesday in August, 8/06, to make any final decisions concerning bylaws, and motion to a public hearing in September.
 - c. Place Sense to edit out any bylaw info concerning murals. ZA will get these changes to Place Sense.
 - d. Downtown zone, no residential on first floor, with a 40' distance. Use a waiver or variance to remove any housing issues. Not a 65 – 35% concept. ZA and Town manager will inform Place Sense concerning this issue.
 - e. ZA will decide minor permitting issues. All major issues to proceed through the DRB.
 - f. Place Sense will make any changes as required by Act 250 recent changes.
 - g. Press release. Bylaw modernization. General info and process, progress.
7. Town manager report. Safety Task force, bike conference. Issues with homeless encampments.
8. ZA report
9. Conclusions- Next activities, actions. See previous minutes
10. Close meeting. Larry motion, Ben C, 2nd. Motion passed. 8:54pm/