



# TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

Planning Commission  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
Tuesday 08/20/2024  
7:00pm Meeting

## St.J. Welcome Center and Zoom *DRAFT Meeting Minutes*

Members Present:

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

Others attending: Matt Walsh

Planning Commission meeting

1. 7:05PM Open Meeting.
2. Agenda changes. Jim Brown motion to table approval of 7/16/24 minutes. Ben Deede 2nd. Motion passed.
3. Public Comment. None
4. Town plan. Matt presented the updated outline of major. Planning commission members reflected on general comments received directly during the public outreach and other than specific complaint's themes included concerns about public safety and drug use and the potential to dissuade visitors from coming downtown along with the need for more housing. The survey will be closed out and will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting. Planning Commission members recommended the removal the repeated section 5. housing and neighborhoods and moving the education facilities from the public services to the education heading (or remove if already included there). Next steps in the town plan development include:
  - Matt will send this revised draft outline to department heads.
  - The Energy Committee will review information that is required to be part of the enhanced energy component of the town plan at the next energy committee meeting.
  - Matt will expand on the information for the topic areas of Public Services and Utilities & Infrastructure with support from town staff following the City of Barre Town Plan for the September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - Planning commission members will review the draft outline, provide additional feedback to Matt and consider topics that they may be interested in taking a lead in following up on such as recreation, education, and health care which can be discussed at the September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.
5. Bylaw Modernization. Matt has a meeting scheduled with Place Sense for next Thursday and if the final draft bylaw updates are not received at this meeting, he will set a deadline of September 6<sup>th</sup> for a final draft bylaw revision with the additional changes that are necessary based on 2024 legislation. This will be discussed at the September 17<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting.
6. Town manager report. Town has been focused on flood response.
7. ZA report. There are a number of projects moving forward including revisions to the Packard Court development on Main Street going before the DRB.
8. Conclusions- Next activities, actions. Planning Commission members can suggest information to include in a press release as the details for the public hearing for the bylaw revisions are finalized.
9. Close meeting. Larry Dolan motion Ben Deede 2nd. Motion passed 8:26 pm.