

Planning Commission

MINUTES

July 7, 2021

7:30 p.m.

Bryan Memorial Town Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mr. Hileman, Ms. Matteo, Mr. Rimsky
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Mr. Carey, Ms. Gager
ALTERNATE PRESENT:	Mr. Mongar
ALTERNATE ABSENT:	Mrs. Averill
STAFF PRESENT:	Mrs. Hill, Mrs. White
ALSO PRESENT:	Mr. Charles
PRESENT BY ZOOM:	Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Gorra

Chairman Hileman called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m., noted there was a quorum present, and seated Members Hileman, Matteo, and Rimsky and Alternate Mongar.

Consideration of the Minutes

MOTION: To accept the 6/2/2021 Regular Meeting minutes as submitted. By Mr. Rimsky, seconded by Mr. Mongar, and passed 4-0.

Mr. Hileman noted there were no pending or new applications.

Committee and Commission Reports

Sustainability: Ms. Matteo reported she had completed 12 hours of equity training. She found the course well organized and structured, but noted Washington had not fared too well in the diversity section. She recommended equity language be used in the next Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). The next Sustainability Committee meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 14.

Economic Development: Mrs. Gorra had nothing new to report from the last committee meeting. She reminded everyone that a postcard mailer to promote the arts had been sent out, that a conversation would soon begin with farmers, and in a few weeks a meeting would be held to get input from the business community on the Titus concept plan.

Broad Band: Mr. Hileman reported that work to expand broad band coverage in northwest CT had disintegrated at the state level due mainly to lobbying of the state energy and technology committee by the communications industry. He explained a 28 page bill

dealing with consumer rights and provisions to facilitate easier installation of high speed internet had been replaced by the legislature at the last minute. A lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Charles asked if a broad band study for the Town had been approved. Mr. Hileman stated an RFP had not yet been submitted and noted that such a study would indicate the materials required for townwide coverage so that the total cost could be determined. Topics discussed included the location of existing trunk lines, the need for one touch installation in CT, billing for internet service, and the need for a Town map to show existing lines and generate public awareness.

Housing Commission: Mr. Mongar said favorable feedback had been received at the Commission's second public meeting, although it had not been as well attended as the first public session. He added that a future meeting would be held with the Planning and Zoning Commissions to present the Town's affordable housing plan. Mr. Hileman offered to schedule a special meeting for the presentation if needed. Mr. Mongar said informational flyers about the plan would be circulated around Town and it was the consensus this was a good idea. The Housing Commission meeting schedule was noted: the next regular meeting will be by Zoom at 5:30 p.m. on July 13, there will be no August meeting, and the joint Planning/Zoning meeting will be held in the fall when more residents will be around.

Upcoming 2023 Update of the POCD: Mr. Hileman will soon meet with the Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, and Sustainability Committee to learn what issues they think should be addressed in the update. Other boards such as Inland Wetlands and the Zoning Board of Appeals may submit their "wish lists" in writing. Mr. Mongar, Mr. Rimsky, and Ms. Matteo said they had begun and would continue dialogues with the art, business, and lake communities to learn what they think should be the focus of the next Plan. Mr. Hileman stressed that the Planning Commission would not prioritize issues until after collecting ideas and concerns from all those interested. Ms. Matteo advised the Commission that Sustainable CT was a valuable document that covers climate change issues and that Planning should review it as a group. Mr. Hileman agreed, noting that shelters, the electrical grid, internet connection, and other security issues and municipal options that had never before been covered in the POCD should be addressed in the update. Mrs. Anderson said the Town has an emergency management plan and suggested Mr. Abella, emergency management director, be consulted.

Communications

Mr. Hileman reported that he and Mrs. Hill, Zoning commissioner, had had good discussion regarding possible revisions to the Zoning Regulations governing the commercial districts and those lots divided by district boundary lines. He said he thought the proposed revisions were well intended and were moving forward and that he had been invited and hoped to attend the next Zoning Commission meeting.

Administrative Business

The updated general reference land use maps by the HVA for the upcoming POCD and update of the Natural Resources Inventory had been received. The commissioners noted their general satisfaction with these maps. Mr. Hileman asked the commissioners to review them and to report any errors found to Mrs. White who will relay them to the HVA. Mr. Rimsky noted the roads were not well marked and asked for more labels, at least for significant roads.

Mr. Hileman reported that Mrs. Averill had recently been officially sworn in as Alternate. There remains one vacant alternate seat on the Commission.

Upcoming 2023 Update of the POCD, continued:

Mr. Mongar noted the recent change in state law regarding recreational marijuana and asked if the updated Plan should reflect that change. Mr. Hileman said the Commission would consider whether the POCD would take a position on this matter. It was noted the Board of Selectmen would discuss the new legislation at its next meeting. A brief discussion followed.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting. By Mr. Rimsky, seconded by Ms. Matteo, and passed 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

FILED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Respectfully submitted,

Janet M. Hill, Clerk

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