

WILLIAMSTOWN PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
MEETING HELD ON: April 10, 2024
Minutes - - (DRAFT COPY)

PRESENT: Rich Turner, CH, Susan Lyons, David Traczyk, Horace Duke, Rama Schneider
Guest:

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

Motion to approve the Minutes from the March 13, 2024 as written made by Rama S. and 2nd by Horace D. All approved.

New Business:

Rich T. Are there any adjustments or additions to the Agenda? - - None made.

Rich T. Update on the CVRPC board meeting last night. Mentioned and discussed several of the bills that were coming up in the legislature that might affect the town.
Some mentioned: H629 – Municipal Tax Sales; S55 – Open Meeting Law; H875 Municipal Ethics Bill; Act 250 Reform Bill; S311 Home Act – Housing (this meshes with the Act 250 Tier #1 – makes more exceptions in housing decisions); S196 – Judicial –(in part will consider past arrests and releases). More information can be found on the VT League of Cities & Towns website.
Also mentioned was the Bill H480 which has to do with a State Re-appraisal. Meaning that the State would be doing this – not the towns anymore. Talking about having 7 regions and doing the appraisals in a cycle.
In speaking with Sam Lash – they gave out 4K in Mini Grants last year and there is more money available in this year’s budget.
Coming up – May 3rd at 9 A.M. there is a Free Energy Assessment being done at the Town Office building. Jackie Higgins, Town Mgr. should have received a notice on this.

Also – there are 2 up-coming events: #1 - “Health Equity” meeting on April 17, 2024 from 1-4 p.m. at the Old Labor Hall in Barre, This should be part of our new Town Plan. Anyone interested - - you will need to RSVP. I will forward information on this.
#2 – “VT Window Dressers” This is on making frames for energy savings in homes. They will be meeting on April 22, 2024 at 6 p.m. at the Middlesex Town Hall, 5 Church St.

Rich T. Rama – is there anything new to report on the Education portion of the Town Plan?

Rama S. I am still waiting to talk with the school superintendent. I’m still wondering about the Goals. Feel that we need to re- think these. Also – how can the SB be held responsible for supporting these goals?

Rich T. Moving on to the Sidewalk Project. I think Horace that you and I should talk with AOT. There are Grants available and one of the ideas is to combine projects, example – Bike/Roadside/Sidewalks/ Safe Routes to Schools. The Grants that were submitted last year – 100% of the Towns got the Grant. There is a 20% local match required. Keith from CVRPC could be of help with this. The “scoping project” is estimated at between \$40,000 - \$70,000. There will need to be 2 public meetings and a preferred alternative plan.

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Old/New Business:

- Cont'd** Some of the other steps are - - the preliminary engineering – final design – right of way – permitting – construction. This process can take up to 4 years.
- Susan L. How much does Act 250 get involved?
- Rich T. They shouldn't.
- Horace D. We didn't get the Grant last time for the Safe Routes to School, however, the town did re-pave Hebert Road.
- Rama S. It was my understanding that it was working on the sidewalks in town.
- Rich T. Could be done in two phases with the Village Designated Area being #1 and the schools #2. We would have to go thru a competitive Bid Process - - find a consultant. And if this project doesn't go thru – the Town will need to pay back the monies. Norwich University's Engineering Dept. might be able to help us. Also, the Regional Planning Cmsn. could give us some names of P.E's. (Professional Engineers)
- Dave T. The State has a list of approved engineers which I have because of the work being done on my Dam.
Discussion followed. The current sidewalk in Town was put in approx.. around 1966.
- Rama S. What is the Order of setting up for the Grant application?
- Rich T. Part of the Grant application must list the first Public Hearing date.
- Rama S. Who does the Grant application?
- Rich T. Someone from the Town, Jackie H., the Town Mgr., or someone on the Selectboard or someone on the Planning Commission. I have done Grants in the past.
More discussion followed on the order of events.
- Dave T. It wouldn't hurt to hold a Public Meeting or do a survey first to see if there is any interest.
- Rich T. Both Keith from CVRPC and Ruben from Transportation would be the place to start first.
- Dave T. Looking at the town Plan, I can start on the Water portion. Because of my recent dealings with the issue with my Dam and the State, I can provide some maps.
- Rich T. Looking at June to do a meeting on the Wildlife Corridor.
Anything else? Nothing - -
- Dave T. I will make the Motion to adjourn – 2nd by Horace D.
Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

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Next Meeting: May 8 , 2024
