

## WILLIAMSTOWN PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING HELD ON: August 9, 2023

Minutes - - (DRAFT COPY)

PRESENT: Rich Turner, CH, Rama Schneider, Susan Lyons, David Traczyk, Horace Duke, Jasmin Couillard  
Guest: Sam Lash, CVRPC

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

Motion made to approve the Minutes from June 14, 2023 with correction, made by Horace D. and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jasmin C. Motion passes.

### New Business:

- Rich T. I would like to introduce our guest – Sam Lash from CVRPC and she is here to talk about Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) and Municipal Energy Planning, Heath Equity, and Food Assets.
- Sam L. Thank you for having me. She started speaking to us on Resilient Energy – Climate, Town Plan, a Municipal Grant Program which “Clair” does. That program has grants for up to \$30,000 with a 10% match available. There is also funding available for Enhanced Energy Planning.
- Rich T. What is the time-line for the Municipal Grant?
- Sam L. It opens Sept. 1, 2023 and the deadline to apply is Nov. 1, 2023. The project has to be completed by 2025.
- Jasmin C. Is this an “in kind” match?
- Sam L. Not with this one. Needs actual funds from the town.  
We (the town) has a \$4,000 Mini-grant – Jackie (Town Mgr.) knows about this and I will send her a link. There are 3 parts to MERP - - #1 Energy Assessment Program - - #2 Level 2 Audit - - #3 the town could apply for up to a \$500,000.  
What are some of our goals?  
Discussion on Enhanced Energy Planning - - there is a Starter Kit available with lots of information and I’ll leave this with you also to share.
- Susan L. One of our goals is to provide sidewalks.  
Sam’s suggestion was to include some town goals in our Town Plan.
- Sam L. Asked about our Food Assets – to include grocery stores in the area, meals available, Food Shelf, farms stands. Discussion on these also.  
Will leave information with links to the different programs available.
- We thanked Sam for coming to our meeting and sharing information.

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Rama S. Spoke to our group about “GPT” and set up a demonstration. It connects English language to a computer. Loads PDF’s and you can ask it questions. It synthesizes information. I feel that it is of enough use to help with the Town Plan.  
Any questions? Would be happy to work with anyone who would like to learn more about it.

**Old/New Business:**

Discussion followed on culverts – recent pictures presented on the Gilbert Rd and Baptist Street culverts following the July 10<sup>th</sup> flooding event. The Friends of Winooski – Michele Braun – has talked with Jackie Higgins, Town Mgr. and they could contribute some funding.

Jasmin C. Hopefully make them more nature friendly.

Rich T. I have spoken with Michele and they could do some enhancements after the fact. Bret Ladago from Fish & Wildlife will be at the next Selectboard meeting, Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> and I will also be there.

Rich T. Anything else to discuss? We will need to start looking at our budget at the next meeting.

Horace D. I will make the Motion to adjourn – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rama Schneider.  
Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Next Meeting: Wednesday Sept. 13, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.

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