

WILLIAMSTOWN PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING HELD ON: Sept. 13, 2023

Minutes - - (DRAFT COPY)

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

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

Motion made to approve the Minutes from Aug. 9, 2023 with correction, made by David T, and 2nd by Horace D. Motion passes.

New Business:

Rich T. I attended the Selectboard meeting on Sept. 11 with Christian Meyer. He spoke on the Future Land Use Initiative. I'll be talking with Clare Rock also to discuss this. I can forward you any information I receive on this.
Keith Fritschie is new and is working on the Clean Water Advisory Committee and I'll be at that meeting. He is working on the Tactical Basin Plan and I can give the committee an update later.

Horace D. The latest Flood Insurance Plan is dated 1976. Has it been up-dated and can we get a copy of the updated plan? River courses have changed and the flood areas are also very different.

Rich T. We need to work on a budget for 2025. Discussion followed - -
Clare Rock estimated that we will need between \$12 & \$15,000 for the Town Plan Consultant.

Rama S. AI could help us with this to keep the consultants dollars down.

Rich T. Emerald Ashe Borer tree removal and re-planting. There are funds available between \$5,000 to \$50,000. We could ask for \$10,000 with an "in-kind" match of \$5,000. The Grant needs to be in place by Jan. 5, 2024 and the work needs to be done by the end of Oct. 2024. Since the town road crew will be helping by cutting trees – is this something that the Road Foreman can put in his budget to help out with this expense? I need to have a meeting with Jackie Higgins and Dave Wilder regarding cutting the trees. Dave did say that he could work on this next year. We will be looking at the trees that are 6-12 or 18" range that are in the Town right-of-way.

Susan L. Should we have a separate line item for the EAB expense?

Everyone agreed that this would be a good idea.

I'll ask Jennifer to add a line item for this expense.

?? Question on the Advertising expense. Decision was made to leave at \$300 as per the Town Plan requirements we will need to have one hearing and will need to let residents know. With this in mind the mailing/postage expense was raised to \$1,000.

Rama S. There is Residential delivery to each mailbox available? There is a cost of course.

More discussion on the budget figures - - Town Plan Consultant increased to \$15,000 and Misc. dropped to \$500.00.

Total of the 2025 proposed Budget is \$32,050.00 (increase of \$18,081.00) This increase is mostly due to the Town Plan being due the Spring of 2024 and the Emerald Ashe Borer project.

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PAGE 2

- Horace D. The Agency of Transportation last year was giving out Grants for Village Center areas. Other funds available from: Business & Commerce; Village Designation; Safe Streets to Schools.
- Rich T. Sam Lash had some good ideas on the sidewalks also. We need to try and coordinate efforts on this project.
- Rama S. Were there any plans on where to put the sidewalks previously? Does the School District have any ideas or maybe dollars available? Something to look into.
- Rama S. ChatGPT - - I could take a portion of the Town Plan - - Flooding/Hazard Mitigation Plan. Would be happy to work with anyone who would like to learn more about it.

Old/New Business:

- Rich T. Anything else to discuss?
- Horace D. I will make the Motion to adjourn – 2nd by Rama Schneider.
Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Next Meeting: Wednesday Oct. 11, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.

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