

Town of Fayston, Vermont
Planning Commission Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 26nd, 2022

Attendees: Karen Sauther (chair), Doug Day (vice chair), Rick Swanson (present until 7:14pm), Jennifer Hammond, Pete Ludlow, Don Simonini, Valerie McCord (ZA candidate)

1. Call to order at 6:00pm.
2. Agenda Modifications
 - a. Discussion in regards to adding an agenda item to discuss the one currently open Planning Commission (PC) seats and soon to be vacant seat, and the parties interested in filling those seats, Andy Phelan and Rebecca Baruzzi.
 - i. *Motion to approve the agenda modification to discuss current PC candidates by Doug, seconded by Rick. Motion carried with 5 in favor and one opposed. Agenda modification added.*
3. Interview Fayston Zoning Administrator (ZA) candidate.
 - a. *Motion to enter executive session to consider the appointment or employment of a public officer or employee pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) by Rick, seconded by Pete. All in favor, none opposed, motion carries.*
 - b. Interview with candidate and PC discussion during executive session.
 - c. Open meeting resumed at 7:11pm.
 - d. *Motion to vote to recommend Valerie McCord to the Fayston Select Board for employment as the Fayston Zoning Administrator by Karen, seconded by Pete. PC unanimously voted against and motion did not carry. PC will not recommend candidate to the Select Board.*
 - i. Explanation of decision from the Commission cited that while candidate has very strong technical computer skills and a strong willingness and aptitude to learn, there is a gap in relevant experience, uncertainty amongst members around candidate's ability to handle difficult situations with the public, a perceived hesitance to fulfill some of the roles and responsibilities of the ZA position as stated in the job description (i.e. site visits, health officer), and uncertainty if the candidate would find the work fulfilling enough to provide longevity in the position.
4. Discussion of open PC seats and candidates that have expressed interest to join.
 - a. *Motion to vote to not recommend Andy Phelan to the Fayston Select Board for appointment to the Fayston PC by Don, seconded by Pete. Motion carried with 4 in favor and one opposed (Rick had left). PC will not recommend candidate to the Select Board for PC appointment.*
 - i. Explanation of decision from the Commission cited that while candidate has experience with interpreting legal language, and relevant experience serving on a municipal board, commission thought there may be conflicts of interest pertaining to short term rental ownership, that the candidate may have limited availability to participate in meetings due to distance limitations, and may not be integrated into Fayston affairs enough to be familiar with the current issues facing the town.
 - b. Discussion of recommending Rebecca Baruzzi to the Select Board for PC appointment. PC decided they still had questions for the candidate and wished to hold an interview.
 - c. *Motion to hold an interview with Rebecca Baruzzi at the next PC meeting on June 13th by Karen, seconded by Pete. PC unanimously approved and motion carried. PC will reach out to candidate to invite in to PC meeting for interview.*
5. *Motion to adjourn by Karen, seconded by Pete. Meeting adjourned.*