

Planning Commission Minutes
May 9, 2022

Present: Karen Sauther (Chair), Don Simonini, Doug Day, Pete Ludlow, Jennifer Hammond, Hanna Neill (ZA), Greg Alexander

The Meeting was called to Order 5:30pm.

The Minutes of April 25th, 2022 were approved.

Announcements and Agenda Modifications

Karen announced that Rick has notified her that he will be leaving the Planning Commission 5/31/22. The PC will have two vacant positions.

Tomorrow is a Planning Commission Regional Board Meeting if anyone would like to attend.

Hanna announced that she has resigned as ZA and her last day will be May 18th.

Karen brought up the importance of maintaining a quorum and to give notice if a PC member needs to leave early so that any voting or important topics can be discussed first.

Don requested an executive session following the meeting to discuss PC makeup and number of chairs. All PC members agreed to stay for the session after.

Liaison Reports

Don has asked the Planning District for an agenda item at next week's meeting a discussion about Short Term Housing. He is waiting for the agenda to come out. He will suggest a subcommittee for this topic.

Amy Tomasso (MRV Planning District) to provide updates about the Wellness Survey.

Wellbeing survey is live as of 4/26, this is an important tool to understand the MRV's people, economy and environment and how they are doing. This survey provides richer more qualitative data on how folks are really doing. It asks questions on topics such as food, security, vitality and wellbeing. This survey uses a tool that can be compared with Vermont State Data which will be able to be compared over time. Last year the MRV had 416 responses, they are hoping for many more this year.

Amy stated that there is an online option to take the survey as well as paper copies available. She has been reaching out to various towns and community members to help spread the word to take the survey so as to have as many completed as possible. She is asking the Fayston PC to help her get this information to the public. Fayston has already sent it out via mail chimp list and posted on the town website. She encouraged us to spend a few minutes sending it out to people they know. Results will be up on the Dashboard sometime this summer and she would like to come back and share the results at that time.

The survey is intended for full time residents. The survey does ask if you are full/part time and what town you live in. In future years the MRVPCD may discuss having separate surveys for full time residents vs. part time or vacationers.

LUR edits

-Fast food definition:

The PC voted to add the proposed definition of Fast Food Restaurant to the LURs as “An establishment whose principal business is the sale of pre-prepared or rapidly prepared food directly to the customer in a ready-to-consume state for consumption either within the restaurant building, in vehicles on the premises, or off the premises.” From The Latest Illustrated Book of Development Definitions, Moskowitz & Lindbloom 2004.

-PUDs:

The PC reviewed the PUD Article 8 feedback from Clare Rock (CVRPC) and voted to accept the proposed Article 8 changes.

-Tree Clearing:

The PC reviewed the memo sent by Clare Rock in regards to Tree Cutting Standards or Vegetation Protection Standards. They agreed that her first two suggestions are helpful to what they are trying to add to the LURs. The Commission decided against exploring option 3 and 4 as they felt it was too extensive at this time.

The PC reviewed Karen’s drafted language based on last meetings conversation with the DRB (4/25), state mapped resources, and external advisors.

Karen is having a Zoom meeting with Jamey Fidel (Vermont Natural Resources Council) Thursday May 12th at 10am if anyone is interested in attending. They will wait to get his feedback before voting on this topic.

The PC continued discussion on the specific standards in section 5.4(B)(4)- Noting that #5 will become #6. It was decided to define “view corridors” and locate the missing maps from our Town Plan before voting on this section. Hanna has reached out to the CVRPC about this and is awaiting a reply.

The PC voted and approved the proposed changes to Section 5.2(A)(6). This consolidates the current list of items and adds a line item for “proposed tree cutting, thinning, or clearing”.

The PC voted and approved on additional language for 25% steep slopes in section 3.4(E)(1)(b) to specifically list “tree clearing” and make mention that any forestry on slopes 25% or greater must follow Vermont’s Acceptable Management Practices. The Commission discussed to also mention “utilities” but decided against it at this time.

Discuss scheduling

May 23rd is the next meeting. Hanna will ask Betsy to take PC minutes moving forward.

June 13th to have all LUR draft documents complete and all final voting to be done end of June.

Take the month of July off. August 8th meeting to begin 1 meeting per month again and plan PC public hearing for Sept.

Adjourned at 7:30pm. Executive Session to follow.