

Town of Fayston, Vermont  
Planning Commission Minutes  
Thursday, July 14, 2022  
Fayston Town Hall

Attendees: Karen Sauther (chair), Don Simonini, Doug Day (vice chair), Jennifer Hammond, Pete Ludlow, Shane Mullen (DRB chair), Jason Wilson (ZA candidate)

Minutes taker: Karen Sauther

1. Call to order at 7:00 pm.
2. No announcements or agenda modifications.
3. Interview of ZA candidate
  - a. Introductions
  - b. Evaluation
    - i. Don asked background of what brought Jason to VT: Jason Wilson (JW): From CT, then moved to Georgia, moved back to CT and found it was not a good fit. Prefers small town USA. Has relatives in the area, and has visited and enjoyed VT in the past, and daughter attends UVM.
    - ii. Doug: Have you read the Town Plan or LURs. JW: No.
    - iii. Jen: What about the job interests you? JW: Required skillset is in my wheelhouse. Was liaison between departments within a larger department (map room, HR, finance, commissioner's office, FD, etc.), and enjoyed serving in that coordinating role. Experienced dealing with ordinances and the public.
    - iv. Pete: Any contentious issues or situations working with the public? JW: Yes, as the fire chief, had to work with a gated community of 5000 people, HOA, and working to keep them up to code at the site (road accesses, building code, etc.)
    - v. Pete: How would you deal with a member of the public pressuring you? JW: Stay calm, honest, avoid conflict, and de-escalate.
    - vi. Don provided hypothetical situation of a frustrated landowner to which JW responded: reference the rules and stick to them, assist the person(s) to find the right path forward. Treat them with good service as though they are a customer.
    - vii. Karen: What land use regulation experience do you have? JW: Have had to consider setbacks, water flows, sign ordinances, mixed use and other situations in prior work experience.
    - viii. Pete: Do you have experience taking field measurements, including slope gradients, water flows? JW: Had to work closely with the fire marshal on knowing locations of watersheds, wetlands, etc. for fire hydrant placement, experience measuring water flows. Not experienced with slope gradient topography measurements, but confident he can learn.
    - ix. Karen: Why did you leave Grismill prior to having another job? Were there any company policy violations? JW: It was not a good fit. Did not have a good working relationship with the office manager, but continues

- to be in good standing with the employer, Brendan. No company policy violations.
- x. Shane explained how ZA supports DRB with site plans, making sure applications are complete, researching permit history, writing findings of facts, writing legal documents like DRB decisions. Can you speak to your legal writing experience? JW: Experienced with incident reports, standard operating procedures, served deposition while fire chief.
  - xi. Shane: What excites you about the job? JW: Likes being the go to guy and setting people of for success. Likes to where a lot of hats and have broad diversity of tasks.
- c. Thanked Jason for attending. Jason and Shane left. PC discussed.
- i. Positives:
    - a. Organizational skills
    - b. Thrives on having a diversity of tasks
    - c. Wants to help people achieve goals within the regulations
    - d. Experienced working with the public in high pressure situations
    - e. Expressed desire to contribute, not necessarily lead or direct
    - f. Willing to assist the public through land use questions and permit process
    - g. He is confident in his understanding of E911 coordinator and health officer duties
    - h. Has some experience with site map interpretation, setbacks, site measurements
    - i. References were all positive and were consistent with what he told us were his strong skills
  - ii. Negatives:
    - a. Unclear on specifics around working relationship with office manager at Gristmill and why that caused him to leave the company
    - b. Lacks experience interpreting GIS maps
    - c. Has not familiarized himself with LURs or Town Plan since asked about it at hiring committee meeting
    - d. Lacks experience implementing the permit process/permit adherence/enforcement
    - e. Lacks familiarity with Vermont state regulations
- d. Don motioned to send nomination of Jason Wilson for the Zoning Administrator position to the Select Board. Pete seconded the motion. The PC voted unanimously in favor and motion carried.
- e. Other business
- i. Reviewed schedule-next regular meeting August 8<sup>th</sup>. Resuming one meeting per month.
  - ii. Karen updated that attorney review feedback of drafted LURs has been received and will be forwarded along to the PC for review before next meeting.

- iii. Karen scheduled to meet with Sam Lash (CVRPC) and Brad Long (Fayston Energy Coordinator) to discuss what putting together municipal energy plan looks like. Sam Lash to attend the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and present more info to the group.
- f. Don motioned to adjourn. Jen seconded. Adjourned 7:58pm.