

Town of Fayston, Vermont
Planning Commission Minutes
Monday June 12th, 2023
Fayston Town Hall

Attendees: Planning Commission: Rebecca Baruzzi (Chair), Karen Sauther, Doug Day and Pete Ludlow **Zoning Administrator:** Jason Wilson **Public:** Jim Donkersloot and Freddie Graves

1. Call to Order at 5:31 PM

2. **Agenda Modifications:** None

3. **Approval of May 8th, 2023 Minutes:** Karen motioned to approve the minutes; Doug seconded. All approved.

4. **Discussion with Planning Commission Candidate Jim Donkersloot:**

Rebecca: What is your viewpoint on the community having a local school.

Jim: Torn on this subject. Understands the school effects the identity individual towns have.

Rebecca: Do you have rental properties, if so long term or short-term (AirBnB)?

Jim: I do, 12-month rentals.

Rebecca: Do you have any thoughts on STRs (AirBnB), registry?

Jim: I have friends that stay at AirBnBs when they visit. I know some towns are putting bans or restrictions on them. I don't believe they follow the same regulations as I do with my long-term rentals.

Karen: How familiar are you with procedural activities? Such as By-law amendment process, Open Meeting Law.

Jim: Its kind of common sense, keeping things out in the open.

Rebecca: What are your thoughts on storage containers?

Jim: They are unsightly, but when I put an addition on my house, we used one to store materials but when the project was done it was gone.

Karen: Is there anything in the Town Plan that sticks out to you that you would like to work on.

Jim: I haven't had a chance to dig into the Town Plan yet.

5. **Discussion with Planning Commission Candidate Freddie Graves:**

Rebecca: Why are you interested in the Planning Commission.

Freddie: Looking at where the town is going, understanding it and maybe help steer that ship. Understanding how the Towns Plan and Land Use Regulation marry.

Karen: To you have Lister experience?

Freddie: No, that was my mother in-law.

Rebecca: What do you think about storage containers in people's yards?

Freddie: I don't like the way they look, but unless you are paying the taxes it is none of your business.

Rebecca: What is your viewpoint on the community having a local school.

Freddie: It is very important for our identity. But there our issues with the way it is being funded now that needs to be looked at.

Rebecca: Do you have any thoughts on STRs (AirBnB), registry?

Freddie: I am on the fence on this subject.

Karen: What are the criteria you use to make decisions?

Freddie: You need to look at things from every side, it may cause arguments. But you need to take emotion out of it and do what is best for the town.

Karen: How do you know what is best for the town?

Freddie: You need to talk with the people and look at the Town Plan. Also, look at data and I have strong opinion that the people have a right to use their land.

Karen: Is there anything in in the Town Plan's goals and objectives that you would like to work on.

Freddie: I haven't finished reading the Town Plan yet. (After Karen recited some sections)

Freddie stated she would work on any of them but Reducing our Impact on Climate would not be for her. Then went on to say she would like to work on storm water management or erosion control. She stated how we work what to do with the water on site plans for development but what to do with the water once it leaves a parcel.

6. Discussion on MRVPD Subcommittee Topic "What do the towns think the role of the MRVPD should be moving forward":

It was decided to push this subject to future meeting to allow possible new members get familiar with the subject.

7. Liaison Reports:

MRVPD (Karen) Gave attendees an update on the Waitsfield Wastewater project and a Staff Report from the Districts latest meeting.

8. Other Business: None

9. Announcements: Rebecca will be stepping down from her seat on the Planning Commission after tonight's meeting.

10. Executive Session:

Under statute 1 V.S.A. § 313(3) Karen motioned to enter into executive session to discuss the candidacy of Jim Donkersloot and Freddie Graves for the open Planning Commission seats; Pete seconded. All approved.

Karen motioned to exit Executive Session; Pete seconded. All approved.

Doug motioned to recommend Jim Donkersloot to the Selectboard to fill an open Planning Commission seat; Rebecca seconded. All Approved.

Rebecca motioned to recommend Freddie Graves to the Selectboard to fill an open Planning Commission seat; Pete seconded. All Approved.

11. Adjourn: Karen motioned to adjourn; Rebecca seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM