



Town of Whitingham

**Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**

These Minutes will be accepted into the public record (with any corrections noted) at a future meeting of the Whitingham Planning Commission.

Attending

PC

Brad Lackey
Keith Thompson
Peter Barus

ZA

Gig Zboray

Public

Melanie Winters
Jerry and John Mosher
(Scout Troop 461)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Additions or Changes to Agenda

Hearing of visitors (for concerns not on the agenda)

Annual Reorganization

Elect Chair

Mr. Barus nominated Brad Lackey as Commission Chair. All in favor.

Elect Clerk

Mr. Lackey nominated Peter Barus as Clerk of the Commission. All in favor.

Set Meeting Schedule

Meetings shall be held Second Tuesday each month.

Review and approve prior meeting Minutes

Mr. Barus moved to approve the minutes for February 8, 2022, as corrected. Second by Mr. Thompson. All in favor.

Discuss signage from the power company, what and where

There was discussion of potential locations; the end of Dam Road was suggested, indicating the Glory Hole and trailhead, parking; of setback from the road's fog line; near the sewage plant; the access to Atherton Meadow; and of adjacent property owners, hiking trails, and existing trails (snowmobile trails) around Atherton Meadow.

Consider inviting them to a future meeting

Ms. Zboray issue the invitation to the May meeting.

Discuss improvements for parking at Harriman Reservoir

There was discussion.

Discuss creating a list of scenic resource areas

Mr. Lackey had printed out a web page on overlay districts from Vermont Natural Resources Council. It was suggested that further research be done on this and critical corridors with overlay district maps.

Discuss possibility and process for mapping aquifers

The Commission saw little reason to attempt this highly technical process.

Discuss Proposed Land Use map

It was suggested that changes that may have occurred, from conserved lands (state) into conservation districts (local), be updated. It was noted that proposed land use maps should be updated next year in any case.

Discuss housing needs assessment

Ms. Zboray will communicate with Mr. Bennett (WRC).

Discuss critical corridors, forest blocks

There was discussion of the recent WRC webinar; maps had been examined for likely locations, existing corridors between large blocks of forested land, and loss of forest blocks over time. The Commission discussed the possibility of defining and regulating critical corridors; that the town had no regulatory mechanism other than the published maps in the Town Plan; that this might be addressed when updating proposed land use maps, overlay districts.

Discuss “PC To-do list”

- Proposed land use maps should be updated next year (April 2023 meeting);
- Schedule training on the A&R maps;
- Discuss housing needs assessment with Mr. Bennett;
- Look at parking signage around the power company lands, and schedule Great River Hydro for May 10.

Consider new member recruitment

It was noted that calls had been made; it was suggested that a school internship could be developed.

Other business

Adjourn

Mr. Lackey moved to Adjourn. Second by Mr. Thompson. All in favor.
The meeting was Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Peter Barus, Clerk, March 11, 2022