

Minutes of the
Combined Annual Organization and Regular Monthly Meeting
of the West Fairlee Planning Commission (PC)
April 10, 2017

Members Present: John Benjamin, Chair, Al Pfeiffer, Vice Chair, Peggy Burden, Bryan Stone, Tom Baccei and Nancy Malmquist

Also Present: Kevin Geiger, Senior Planner and Christopher Damiani, Planner,
Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC)

Draft 2018 Town Plan

The process: Chapters are drafted with assistance of TRORC and distributed to PC members for review in advance of each monthly PC meeting. PC members then attend the monthly PC meeting prepared to make comments, corrections and suggestions that, subject to members' consensus, are incorporated in the draft language. As completed, the draft chapters are then made available for public review on West Fairlee's Listserve and website (www.westfairleevt.com), and in the Town Clerk's office. The PC encourages public comment as the draft language is made available for review.

Draft language for: The Introduction, A. Planning in West Fairlee, B. Community Input, C. West Fairlee in Brief (including statistics from the 2010 U.S. Census), was completed at this meeting.

Community Survey

Al discussed progress in drafting a proposed survey to understand what is currently on West Fairlee voters' and property owners' minds. The goal would be to mail the surveys in May if possible and follow with one or more community input meetings in August. Following member feedback, there was a consensus that final comments on the survey should be given to Al within one week and that Al is given the discretion to accept or reject the comments.

Annual Organization Meeting

Role of the Planning Commission

John discussed the role of the PC to include: representing the voters and property owners, serving as visionaries (setting aside personal views and preferences), long term planning (rather than solving immediate challenges), and providing advice to the Selectboard on policies, inquiries and land use applications. He also reviewed the PC's obligation to review and revise, if it deems advisable or necessary, the current town plan.

Election of Officers

John reported that no new nominations for officers were received in advance of the Annual Organization Meeting. John Benjamin agreed to be nominated for Chair and Al Pfeiffer agreed to be nominated for Vice Chair. No single current member would agree to be nominated to the position of Clerk. Since the RULES OF PROCEDURE AND BYLAWS require election of a

Clerk, John Benjamin agreed to be nominated provided that members agree to assist him by taking meeting minutes on a rotating basis and submitting their drafts on a timely basis.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED to elect the following slate of officers to serve until the April 2018 Annual Organization Meeting or until their respective successors are elected and qualified: John Benjamin, Chair and Clerk, and Al Pfeiffer, Vice Chair.

RULES OF PROCEDURE AND BYLAWS

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED to reapprove the RULES OF PROCEDURE AND BYLAWS that were last approved on January 9, 2017.

PC Meeting Schedule

Following a discussion, it was decided to retain the current schedule for regular monthly meetings

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED to approve the schedule of regular monthly meetings: the second Monday of each month, 7:00 P.M., at the Community Building, unless an alternate date, time and/or location is published pursuant to legal notice requirements.

PC Logo

Bryan Stone presented a proposed PC logo depicting the silhouette of a hiker overlooking West Fairlee Village from a surrounding hilltop. The logo portrays the natural and scenic beauty that makes West Fairlee a special place for recreation, to live or visit. The logo was enthusiastically received and Bryan was thanked for his contribution. Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED to adopt the PC logo.

Cell Service Survey by CoverageCo <https://vernal.typeform.com/to/qNsUNI>

This agenda item was included to encourage members and the West Fairlee community to complete the survey in the hope of attracting cell phone coverage providers to town.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

John Benjamin, Chair and Clerk