

Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of the
West Fairlee Planning Commission (PC)
September 11, 2017, 7:00 P.M.

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

Others Present: Kevin Geiger, Senior Planner, Chris Damiani, Planner, Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional (TRORC)

Welcome: John called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Five Minute Share: West Fairlee Conservation Commission representative, Rebecca Wurdak, spoke about the priorities of the commission, i.e. clean water, protecting local habitats from fragmentation, understanding the value of land conservation and education - increasing people's connection to the natural assets enjoyed locally by residents and sports enthusiasts. Clean water is first on the list of concerns.

Minutes: Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was VOTED to approve the Minutes for the August 14th Regular Meeting.

Discussion on the organization of the September 24th Community Meeting and status of the PC's Community Survey results. John outlined the order of events that will take place at the Community Meeting and he has asked several high school students to be involved by being scribes. Families are welcome and there will be a special group formed to get input from children. Refreshments will be available. The results of the June 2017 Community Survey will be released on September 24th and will be available on the town website.

2018 Town Plan Project Assignment: Land Use Chapter. Tom presented his thoughts on the inter-relationship of property taxes and land use. He indicated his concern about local taxes and their effect on retaining existing families, as well as attracting new families and businesses that could increase the tax base (Grand List) and spread the tax burden over a wider base. Tom said he would draft some language in connection with the existing Land Use chapter and email it to members within a couple of weeks. We will discuss and comment on Tom's draft language at the next meeting.

Kevin gave a brief talk on ideas to consider for future land use in Town and in outlying rural areas. TRORC encourages towns to avoid fragmentation, preserve wildlife corridors and encourage development in densely settled areas on main roads with the most direct access to schools, shopping, professional services and access to I-91.

Adjournment: There being no further business, it was VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Burden, Acting Clerk