

The Town of St. Albans
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
Meeting held via Zoom Conference Call
February 23rd 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Casey Toof, Anne Pomeroy, Hannah Rounds, Al Voegelé, Sarah Hadd
Staff Present: Corey Parent, Director of Operations, AJ Johnson, Administrative Assistant
Public Present :

Zoom Meeting ID: 876 1553 0313

CALL TO ORDER

C. Toof called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None.

DRAFT BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN REVISIONS

C. Parent presented the first draft of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan. He explained the maps still need to be updated by Regional Planning. The term “St. Albans” will be updated to “the Town of St. Albans” throughout the document. One significant change from the last plan is shifting the focus to a larger “health path” instead of multiple small sidewalks throughout the Town. This changes also shifts from a “connectivity” mindset to a “recreational” mindset. The document will need to be updated to show changes to the Bylaws if this plan is adopted.

C. Toof wondered if any of the COVID relief funding granted to municipalities can be used for pedestrian projects. C. Parent is unsure how far the money will go in the State and explained the Town will need to have local match money when applying for grants.

C. Parent outlined the Town’s goal to build a sidewalk from the proposed Town Hall location to the Bay Park. Additionally, there has been discussion with Vermont Fish and Wildlife to turn the former DPW site into a boat launch.

The PC recalled a previous discussion to request the Selectboard put aside \$75,000 per year for pedestrian projects. C. Parent explained he was not a part of building the budget for this year, but does not anticipate using funds for pedestrian projects this year. A. Voegelé expressed it is a lack of future thinking to not use funds as they are available. C. Parent explained there are no projects that are shovel ready at this point.

C. Parent shared the anticipated phases of the health path. He anticipates updating the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master plan every five years.

S. Hadd wondered how the cost of construction low/high cost is determined. C. Parent explained the low cost is for material whereas the high cost includes land acquisition and engineering.

C. Parent is recommending the PC remove the “Impact Fee” section of the plan. The current Selectboard does not seem interested in funding projects through impact fees paid by developers or residents.

The PC also discussed adding verbiage to the document that outlines how recreational paths are beneficial to health.

C. Parent will continue to edit the document and work with Regional Planning to obtain the maps.

CORRESPONDENCE

The PC received notification from Green Lantern Solar regarding the application of BCAAF GLC Solar, LLC who has applied for a Certificate of Public Good for a proposed solar project to be located at 1083 Bellevue Carriage Road.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

C. Toof thanked S. Hadd for joining the Planning Commission and welcomed her.

C. Parent has arranged for Nick, an employee with the Vermont Land Trust to meet with the PC the first meeting in April.

CREATE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING: MARCH 9TH

The PC will need to reorganize and adopt the Rules of Procedure. If the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan has all of the requested edits, it may be reviewed. Additionally, the PC will prep for the Land Trust discussion.

MINUTES

MOTION: A. Voegele made a motion to approve the minutes of February 9th, 2021. H. Rounds seconded. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: H. Rounds made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55p.m. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
AJ Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Casey Toof, Vice Chair

Date

Al Voegele, Clerk

Date

Hannah Rounds

Date

Anne Pomeroy

Date

Sarah Hadd

Date