

# UNDERHILL PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, June 11, 2020 @ 6:00 PM

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING (HELD REMOTELY)

Minutes

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## Attendance

### **Planning Commissioners:**

Commissioner Johnathan Drew, Chair\*  
Commissioner David Edson, Vice Chair\*  
Commissioner Patrick Lamphere\*  
Commissioner Val Stori\*  
Commissioner Lea Van Winkle\*  
Commissioner Sandy Wilmot\*

### **Staff/Municipal Representatives:**

Andrew Strniste, Planning Director\*

### **Others Present:**

None

\* This symbol denotes that this party joined via Go-To-Meeting. To view the recording of the evening's meeting, visit the Mt. Mansfield Community Television website: <http://mtmansfieldctv.org>, or at the following link: <https://archive.org/details/underhill-planning-06112020>.

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[6:05] Staff Member Strniste assisted Chair J. Drew with the introductory information of the evening's meeting. The meeting was first called to order. Due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic, the meeting was held in accordance with Vermont State Law remotely. The meeting will be uploaded to the Mt. Mansfield Community Television (<http://mtmansfieldctv.org>). No public was in attendance for the evening's meeting, and therefore, no general public comment was provided. Chris Poley, who was scheduled to interview with the Commission about possibly joining the Planning Commission was not in attendance, and therefore, that agenda was pushed to the back of the agenda.

### **AGENDA ITEM: ACTION ITEM UPDATE**

[6:08] Staff Member Strniste provided an overview of the action items assigned during the previous meeting. Commissioner Wilmot advised that Janet Grant was not interested in joining the Commission at this time.

### **AGENDA ITEM: NEW BUSINESS – THE PLANNING COMMISSION & SOCIAL EQUITY IN UNDERHILL**

[6:10] In light of current events, the Planning Commission discussed their role in regards to social equity. No definitive action was expected. Commissioner Edson opined that he did not believe any action needed to be taken by the Planning Commission. Discussion ensued of potential regulations, areas and practices where the Commission could review and consider in an effort to identify any indirect sources of inequality. Staff Member Strniste suggested that the zoning regulations and Town Plan may be one area to explore for potential unforeseen biases. Commissioner Edson reaffirmed his opinion that re-examining the Town Plan would be inappropriate.

### **AGENDA ITEM: NEW BUSINESS – UPDATES RELATING TO PREFERRED RENEWABLE ENERGY SITES**

[6:21] Commissioners Wilmot and Stori provided an update relating to researching preferred renewable energy sites. They informed the Commission that correspondence has been sent to the

Conservation Commission and Energy Committee. A brief discussion ensued about the Bennington Public Service Board's decision.

**AGENDA ITEM: NEW BUSINESS – UPDATES RELATING TO WI-FI CAPABILITIES WITHIN UNDERHILL**

[6:21] Commissioners Drew and Van Winkle provided an update in regards to wi-fi capabilities within the Town of Underhill, specifically the geographic extent of the different service providers. Commissioner Van Winkle informed the Commission that Chris Poley was unable to attend the evening's meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM: OLD BUSINESS – BENNINGTON PUC DECISION; 2020 TOWN PLAN UPDATES**

[6:41] Minimal comments were provided relating the Bennington Public Service Board's decision. Discussion ensued about potential strategies for conducting the hearings for the proposed 2020 Town Plan. Holding the hearings outside was provided as a potential option. The logistics of conducting the hearings outside were then discussed.

[6:50] The Commission was asked to give feedback relating to the Housing Needs Assessment Survey postcard to be distributed to all Underhill residents.

[6:55] Commission Stori provided information regarding grant opportunities related to local food.

[6:56] Staff Member Strniste advised that Rick Heh, from the Underhill Historical Society, was available to discuss the proposed edits to the proposed Historic & Cultural Resources of the proposed 2020 Town Plan.

**AGENDA ITEM: OLD BUSINESS – APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES**

[6:58] Commissioner Edson made a motion to approve the minutes of May 28, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Van Winkle and approved unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM: QUORUM FOR NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020**

[7:26] A quorum will be present at the Thursday, June 25, 2020 meeting. An update relating to the Natural Resource Inventory & Mapping Committee can be provided at the next meeting.

[7:27] Commission Edson made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Stori seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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Respectfully Submitted By:  
Andrew Strniste, Planning Director

The minutes of the June 15, 2020 meeting were accepted this \_\_\_day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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John Drew, Planning Commission Chair

**New Action Items**

- Commissioners Van Winkle & Drew* – Research Wi-Fi/Internet capabilities within Underhill.
- Commissioners Wilmot & Stori* – Research potential renewable energy preferred sites within Underhill
- Staff Member Strniste* – Review Zoning Regulations and Town Plan with the consideration of social equity.
- Staff Member Strniste* – Invite Rick Heh to a future Planning Commission Meeting

**Old, Incomplete Action Items**

- Staff Member Strniste* – Update Planning Commission Calendar.

**Completed Action Items**

- Staff Member Strniste* – Research the recent decision by the Public Service Board regarding the denied solar project in Bennington.
- Commissioner Wilmot* - Inquired with Janet Grant about joining the Planning Commission.
- Commissioner Van Winkle* – Inquire with Chris Poley about joining the Planning Commission.

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