

UNDERHILL PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, July 2, 2020 @ 6:00 PM
SPECIAL MEETING (HELD REMOTELY)
Minutes

Attendance

Planning Commissioners:

Commissioner Johnathan Drew, Chair*
Commissioner David Edson, Vice Chair*
Commissioner Kail Romanoff, Clerk
Commissioner Patrick Lamphere*
Commissioner Val Stori*
Commissioner Brian Tijan

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-07022020>.

[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 being 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 item was removed.

AGENDA ITEM: ACTION ITEM UPDATE

[6:07] Staff Member Strniste provided an overview of the action items assigned during the previous meeting. Chair J. Drew provided an update about their research relating to Wi-Fi capabilities within the Town of Underhill (also scheduled as an agenda item under Old Business). Chair J. Drew informed that the Commission that the State has a good set of maps; however, more research will need to be performed to identify dead spots. Nevertheless, high speed internet was general available. Discussion ensued about methods for ascertaining funding and more information.

[6:13] Commissioners Stori and Wilmot informed the Commission that there no significant updates regarding their researching relating preferred renewable energy (also scheduled as an agenda item under Old Business). Commissioner Stori informed the Commission that they were looking at potential sites and mitigation factors.

AGENDA ITEM: NEW BUSINESS – PROSPECTIVE PLANNING COMMISSIONER INTERVIEW – CHRIS POLEY

[6:16] Staff Member Strniste informed the Commission that Chris Poley, the prospective Planning Commissioner, assists with the Underhill/Jericho Farmers' Market every week, and therefore, attending one of the meetings in the immediate future may be challenging. His scheduling is likely to be more conducive once the Harvest Market ends in the fall-time.

AGENDA ITEM: NEW BUSINESS – 2020 TOWN PLAN UPDATES

[6:18] Discussion ensued about the 2020 Town Plan, specifically when the public hearings should be held. Commissioner Lamphere, who is also the Town's Health Officer advised against holding public hearings in an outdoor setting due to issues relating to wastewater, enforcement and social distancing. Chair J. Drew opined that the issues raised by Commissioner/Health Officer Lamphere warranted postponing the hearings further.

AGENDA ITEM: NEW BUSINESS – 2020 TOWN PLAN UPDATES

[6:26] Staff Member Strniste inform the Commission about the Housing Survey going live. Chair J. Drew will post a reminder on *Front Porch Forum* during the week of July 5, 2020 and Commissioner Tijan will post a reminder on *Front Porch Forum* during the week of July 12, 2020.

AGENDA ITEM: NEW BUSINESS – UPDATE FROM THE NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY & MAPPING COMMITTEE

[6:30] Commissioner Wilmot provided an update on the progress made by the Natural Resource Inventory & Mapping Committee relating to the Natural Resources Map. Resident Ryan Ochs has prepared maps for the Committee to review. Commissioner Stori inform the Commission that they were going to reach out to other Towns.

AGENDA ITEM: OLD BUSINESS – THE PLANNING COMMISSION & SOCIAL EQUITY IN UNDERHILL

[6:35] Staff Member Strniste shared the resources that were sent to him by Commissioners Stori and Romanoff relating to social equity. Commissioner Stori opined that the regulations and Town Plan said the right things, but does not specifically recognize social equity issues. Chair J. Drew suggested making an affirmative statement in the proposed Town Plan regarding the topic. Commissioner Stori than suggested an outside firm review the proposed Town Plan and regulations to see what may be missing, and will provide Staff Member Strniste potential options for that task. Commissioner Stori also suggested that the Commission could take online training. Commissioner Lamphere advised that other Towns are creating Commissions to address the issue and willing to wait and see how those approaches work. Commissioner Wilmot advised that social equity extends further than just racial lines. Discussion ensued about the implications of the engaging with a consultant to review the Town Plan and Regulations.

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

[6:56] The next meeting, scheduled for July 9, 2020 was cancelled.

[6:59] Commissioner Lamphere made a motion to approve the minutes of June 11, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilmot and approved unanimously.

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

[7:00] A quorum will be present at the Thursday, July 23, 2020 meeting.

[7:00] Commission Lamphere made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wilmot seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Andrew Strniste, Planning Director

The minutes of the July 2, 2020 meeting were accepted this ___day of _____, 2020.

John Drew, Planning Commission Chair

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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
- Commissioner Wilmot* – Provide Staff Member Strniste with potential options relating to firms to review the proposed Town Plan and Regulations
- Planning Commission* – 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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