

UNDERHILL PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, April 6, 2017 6:30 PM

Minutes

Planning Commissioners Present: Chair Cynthia Seybolt, Carolyn Gregson, Catherine Kearns, David Edson, Pat Lamphere, Irene Linde, Nancy Bergersen

Staff/Municipal Representatives Present: Andrew Strniste, Planning Director; Kurt Johnson, Selectboard Member

Others Present: Lea Van Winkle, Underhill Resident; Katelin Brewer-Colie, Local Motion

[6:29] The Planning Commission convened at Underhill Town Hall at 6:30pm.

[6:30] Chair C. Seybolt called the meeting to order. Those present introduced themselves.

[6:31] Ms. Brewer-Colie provided an overview of how Local Motion assists communities regarding pedestrians and bicyclists by providing technical assistance to communities with the support of Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission. She provided a presentation that aligned with Local Motion's mission goals of: 1) making walking and biking central to Vermont's culture, 2) building a movement for better walking and biking, and 3) expanding safe and connected walk and bike infrastructure. Ms. Brewer-Colie advised that Local Motion assists rural communities with safety concerns, and informed the Commission about utilizing temporary sidewalk/curb extension options, as well as tactical urbanism strategies, that communities can test to see if they are feasible options to make roads safer for pedestrians and bicyclists.

[6:49] Commissioner Lamphere provided background regarding the attempts to construct a bike path from Underhill Flats to Underhill Center, confirming the notion that people like the concept, but not the implementation. Ms. Brewer-Colie advised that Local Motion could assist with public outreach, coordinating and assisting with studies to look at alternatives, and identifying funding sources. Commissioner Gregson explained some of the difficulties of constructing a bike path, such as historic houses being in close proximity to roads. Selectboard Member Johnson inquired about a possible bike path connecting Burlington, through Jericho/Underhill, to Cambridge. Chair Seybolt confirmed with Ms. Brewer-Colie that studies could also include pedestrians. Ms. Brewer-Colie advised that Underhill could coordinate over the summer and apply for grants this fall to utilize in fiscal year 2019. Ms. Van Winkle confirmed with Ms. Brewer-Colie that the temporary equipment could be utilized for about a mile's worth up to one week.

[7:07] Ms. Van Winkle was invited to interview for a Planning Commission vacancy. She provided a background of herself, and advised that she was impressed with the direction the Planning Commission is going in regards to coordinating with other boards & commissions. She provided her opinion on why it is difficult to develop/subdivide in Underhill, as well as explained why she wished to serve on the Planning Commission. In response to Commission Kearns' questions, she stated what her future vision of Underhill was, as well as how she would deal with conflict if such a situation were to arise. She concluded by stating she would have the time and make it a point to attend the meetings.

[7:23] Commissioner Linde has expressed her desire to step down from the Commission. The next scheduled meeting (April 20) will be cancelled due a presentation held by the Conservation Commission. A quorum will be present for a special meeting on April 13. The Commission is tentatively meeting on April 27.

[7:31] A discussion ensued about possible conflicts of interest.

[7:37] **Chair C. Seybolt asked for a motion to approve the minutes of March 29, 2017.**

Commissioner Bergersen made the motion. The Commission provided amendments to the March 29, 2017 minutes. **Chair C. Seybolt asked for a motion to approve the minutes of March 29, 2017, as amended.** Commissioner Bergersen made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Edson. **The minutes of March 29, 2017, as amended were approved unanimously.**

[7:41] A discussion ensued about the proposed recommendation to the Selectboard about assembling a task force regarding the commuter bus. The recommendation, as drafted by Chair C. Seybolt, was edited to provide language suggesting possible alternative means of transportation for the task force to explore. C. Seybolt will forward the edited recommendation to the Selectboard.

[7:51] Selectboard Member Johnson advised a joint meeting with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns will likely not happen until mid-May. The Commission thought sending a thank you note to Mr. Ross Brewer for renovating the old Green Mountain Foam Company building would be a good idea.

[7:53] Staff Member Strniste provided clarification about a joint Planning Commission/Conservation Commission meeting with Ms. Mahoney from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.

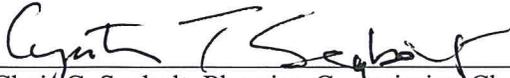
[7:57] Staff Member Strniste advised the Commission to review the Rules of Procedure.

[7:58] Chair C. Seybolt advised that the Commission should review the density statement excerpt Commission Lamphere drafted, the emails sent by Commissioner Edson and Staff Member Strniste, and to begin thinking about the maximum number of dwelling units that should be permitted per lot in each zoning district for the next meeting.

[8:04] **Chair C. Seybolt asked for a motion to adjourn.** Commissioner Lamphere accepted the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Edson. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted By:
Andrew Strniste, Planning Director

The minutes of the April 6, 2017 meeting were accepted this 13th day of April, 2017.



Chair C. Seybolt, Planning Commission Chair