

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Planning Commission  
Meeting Minutes for August 8, 2019 at 6:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the Barre City Planning Commission was called to order by Commission Chair Michael Hellein at 6:30 pm at City Hall. In attendance were Commissioners Rachel Rudi, David Sichel, Jacob Hemmerick, Jim Hart, Rick Badem and Jackie Calder. Also in attendance was Planning Director Janet Shatney. Chair Hellein determined that there was a quorum was present.

**Absent:** None.

**Adjustments to the Agenda:** None.

**Old Business:**

**July 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes:** The July 25, 2019 minutes were approved by a motion from Commissioner Hart, seconded by Commissioner Sichel. **Motion carried.**

**Master Plan Work:**

- Chair Hellein stated he hadn't made it to the last 2 Farmer's Markets due to inclement weather and them being moved inside. Will hope for a nice afternoon for the next one. He did state that based on polling people to date, the two underlying themes he's heard are that residents want a grocery store, and to have the empty store fronts on N. Main Street filled.
- Benchmarks in the Municipal plan: Ultimately, what of these can we tie to the text in the plan, and some Commissioners felt they were pointless. A question raised was are these statistics gauging what we are all doing; what can we keep and what can kept and tracked as accountability for the City; how do we address success, what is measureable? after one last discussion, the Chair asked each member to review all the benchmarks in each section and send to the Director which ones they feel should be kept.
- The Economic Development and Housing sections were reviewed. Discussion on the issues and challenges for these were gone through, and further discussion regarding: the bike path; parking in the downtown; more of the rest of the city needing to be addressed in the plan besides the downtown; a grocery store; a Neighborhood Development Area; the potential for a revolving loan fund; high tax rates equating to low property values; and how do we attract people with our housing stock.

The Commissioners asked for a Microsoft Word document so they can make edits directly in the document to send back to the Director. Working changes will be posted to the city website after each meeting so that the public can also see the progress.

The Commission also asked that the Summer Street Plan and others be posted to the City website for easy access.

**Draft Rules of Procedure:** The Chair asked if any commissioners had any changes to suggest, and a motion to accept the draft document was made by Commissioner Sichel and seconded by Commissioner Hart, motion carried. Discussion regarding two items took place, the first being a redundant conflict of interest paragraph. It was suggested to remove the last one, under Article VI Voting, letter "e", and keep Article IV. The second point of discussion was raised by Commissioner Hemmerick regarding conduct of hearings, specifically interested parties, as he does not think that 24 VSA 4464(b) applies to the Planning Commission. The Director will double

1 check and find out if this citation actually applies to an interested Person/Party for the Commission.  
2 Therefore, the original motion was withdrawn, and discussion tabled to the next meeting.  
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4 **New Business:** None.  
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6 **Staff Updates:** Director Shatney informed the Commission what the outcomes of the Development  
7 Review Board applications were, as well as a letter of support for housing that the Mayor is looking to  
8 her for. Also, she let the Commission know the determination of using personal email addresses, that  
9 the VLCT strongly suggests using an address just for city-type business separate from personal  
10 addresses, and that a call for information can be far reaching back to when a Commissioner may be  
11 long gone off the Commission.  
12

13 **Roundtable:** nothing stated.

14 **Adjourn:** The Planning Commission meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm by a motion from Commissioner  
15 Sichel, seconded by Commissioner Calder. **Motion** carried.  
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17 There is no audio recording of this meeting.  
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20 Respectfully Submitted,  
21 Janet Shatney, Planning Director