

Barre City Planning Commission

October 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Present: David Sichel (Chair), Jackie Calder (Vice Chair), Amanda Gustin, Jim McWilliam, Thom Lauzon

Absent: Michael Hellein (Secretary)

Staff: Janet Shatney (Director of Planning, Permitting & Assessing)

Visitors: Diversity & Equity Committee members Ellen Kaye, Danielle Owczarski, and Svetlana Zhexembeyeva

1. Call to Order

6:30pm

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

None

3. Public Comment

No public comment.

4. Old business

A. Approve meeting minutes of September 23, 2021

Motion: Gustin, second McWilliam, approved.

5. New Business

A. Diversity and Equity Committee Tool Presentation

The visiting members introduced themselves, as well as the Commission members and staff. 3 questions were asked; a) *why is it important to consider issues of diversity and equity in your work as a Planning Commissioner?*; b) *What barriers and challenges have you experienced when considering issues of diversity and equity in your work in the past?* And c) *What are your hopes/expectations in regard to today's presentation tool? Do you have any questions?* The Commission responded; with discussion. A presentation on the Tool was given, noting that this presentation is on the City website. There are 2

To be approved at the 11/18/21 meeting

versions of the actual tool, both short and long. Ultimately, the outcome after using the tool, and if any revisions are needed after the review, is that it should help the City grow and be a healthier community.

This Tool was developed by the State leaders, and modified for use by the City of Barre, noting that we are one of the few municipalities using it.

B. All in for Barre final updates

Sichel noted that the final meeting happened, Calder and Hellein were also present. There are opportunities to sign up to be on any of the 3 task forces. Sichel participated in the Housing Task Force group, and was asked to be the Chair of this task force, and accepted.

C. Meeting dates discussion

With the Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving Day holidays both on regularly scheduled meeting dates, it was decided to have one meeting for the month, on Special Meeting on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 6:30.

The Christmas holiday presents issues at the end of the month, therefore it was decided to keep the Thursday, December 9, 2021 meeting, with the idea of potentially cancelling the December 23, 2021 meeting – to be finalized at the December 9 meeting.

6. Staff Updates

Nothing more beyond the report in the packet.

7. Roundtable

None.

8. Adjourn

7:59pm, Motion Gustin, Second McWilliam, Adjourned.