

Barre City Planning Commission

May 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Present: David Sichel (Chair), Becky Wigg (Vice Chair), Joe Reil (Secretary), Rosemary Averill, Caitlin Corkins, Raylene Meunier

Absent: None

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

Visitors: None

1. Call to Order.

5:30pm.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda.

None.

3. Approval of Minutes.

a. April 11, 2024.

Corkins moves to approve, Meunier seconds, unanimous in favor.

4. Public comment (for something not on the agenda).

None.

5. Old Business.

a. Interim Zoning Changes Discussion – review of final zoning language and Interim or Regular bylaw change

There was discussion about appropriateness of interim zoning. Consensus is that the flooding has created an appropriate emergency situation.

There was then additional discussion about the specific changes. Consensus that adjusting restrictions on number of units on a lot in the in the Residential Density Standards, similar to Montpelier, is a good change and existing structural requirements will protect against unintended consequences. Sichel suggests to clarify that sample images are not inclusive of all possibilities.

Wigg questioned why only UC-2 had density removed in dimensional tables. This creates lesser restrictions in that district, others are covered by the proposed changes in the Residential Density Standards.

Consensus of agreement on revising Parking Minimums to 1 per residential unit, due to it matching with revised State of Vermont standards.

Reil moves to send proposed changes, Corkins seconds, unanimous in favor.

There was some further discussion about future Flood Hazard Regulation and there was consensus to have a public hearing on the earlier proposed changes in the June meeting of the Planning Commission.

6. New Business.

a. Review of Introduction section of the Municipal Plan

There was discussion of the Introduction of the Municipal Plan, Sichel noting that there was a focus on Health, that a revised plan will be needed in 2028, and that the Commission can consider changing the focus at that time.

The process for how the Plan was written and conceived was also discussed, a Consultant would do the bulk of the work, with guidance from the Planning Commission and informed by the various City Departments.

7. Confirm Date of Next Meeting.

a. June, 13, 2024

Shatney reports that VHB will be reaching out soon on the North Main to Summer Street plan, and this may end up on the June agenda.

8. Staff Updates.

The City's grant application for funding for Prospect Heights Development Project is under review.

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission has a grant to complete a Transit Development Plan, which Barre City could be a part of.

Turning Point is buying a building, with some grant support, near Ladder 1 Grill to establish a new development.

Downstreet has a few projects in progress, the Ward 5 School and the Granite City Apartments.

There is a breakfast/lunch Diner, Tasty Bites, opening soon in Barre City in the former location of the Brazilian Steakhouse.

9. Round Table.

None.

10. Adjourn.

6:47pm, **Corkins moves to adjourn, Averill seconds, unanimous in favor.**