

# Barre City Planning Commission

## September 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: None

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

Visitors: Reuben MacMartin and Niki Sabado from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC)

1. Call to Order.

5:30pm.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda.

None.

3. Approval of Minutes.

a. July 25, 2024.

**Wigg moved to approve, Meunier seconded, unanimous in favor.**

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

None.

5. Old Business.

a. Any review or comments from the 2 public hearings for Zoning and Flood Hazard Rules work with the City Council

Sichel noted that City Council approved interim zoning changes and they will be in effect soon with a reminder that these are temporary and will need to be reviewed again in the future.

First and second reading of Flood Hazard ordinance were approved with a minor clerical error.

6. New Business.

a. TOD Raise Grant: (Transit-oriented development, Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity). New downtown planning area development plan introduction

Shatney noted that City Manager applied for grant and we now need to take action on it. Introduced Reuben MacMartin and Niki Sabado from the CVRPC and indicated they'd met previously for initial discussions and to begin considering what area to look at.

MacMartin introduced himself, noting that the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is the main grant requester and CVRPC is included as a sub-recipient, and that Niki Sabado will be the lead for the Barre City portion of this project.

Sabado introduced and discussed various aspects of the grant, which is intended to provide opportunity for the Department of Transportation to invest in local transit-related projects, for various local benefits. Overall project will have impacts across the Norwest region of Vermont. The final design document is due in March 2025 with several public meetings to occur in the meantime.

There was some questions and discussion about the types of changes that this might result in. MacMartin suggested some possibilities, that the final plan/deliverables would include guidelines on things like infill and upfill, and ways that existing spaces may be used (e.g., replacing unused parking). There were further questions and discussion about the proposed location for the study, including what areas may be appropriate to exclude or include and how this may interact with existing overlay districts and zoning regulations, and how this effort may intersect with the North Main to Summer Street Plan that VHB is working on (and how this plan seems to have stalled).

A map of the city was reviewed with suggestions for how to expand the proposed location with further discussion to come, with consensus that the BOR area (but not surrounding streets) should be included.

Next steps are to review the scope and confirm that and the boundary lines, as well as confirming the list of local stakeholders to involve. Sabado will work with Shatney and further discussion will occur in the next Planning Commission meeting. Shatney will reach out to VHB to confirm their status and intentions on the North Main to Summer Street plan and Sabado will review to see if there is interest in CVRPC using the money from that grant for this project.

7. Confirm Date of Next Meeting.

- a. October 10, 2024.

8. Staff Updates.

Shatney discussed specific Development Review Board challenges in needing to approve projects based on regulations and not personal feelings and briefly discussed guidelines on historic structures. Other updates included in agenda packet.

9. Round Table.

None.

10. Adjourn.

6:49 pm, **Reil moved to adjourn, Corkins seconded, unanimous in favor.**