

Townshend Planning Commission
Minutes
January 27, 2021 via Zoom

Present: John Evans, Bob DeSiervo, Brandon Canevari and Andrew Snelling

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Canevari moved to accept the minutes of January 13th, 2021 as submitted with a change in formating. The motion was seconded by DeSiervo and carried unanimously.
3. **Additions and Deletions:** Snelling requested that a discussion about seeking Village Center Designation for West Townshend be added under New Business. He also requested adding approval of the Planning Commission section of the annual town report under Other Business.
4. **Members of the Public:** none
5. **Correspondence:** Email from Karla Lumbra re: 2021/22 Budget Karla expressed that the Select Board preferred not to add to the Planning Commission reserve fund, but there is currently slightly over \$6,000 in the fund for the Town Plan.
6. **Old Business:**

Act 174: Canevari said that he hadn't had time to look at the updated graphs and charts. DeSiervo said he had several pages of notes on the draft that he will send out by email, for the other members to review at the next meeting.

Act 171 Forestry Blocks: There was a short discussion and DeSiervo suggested that the members look up the Newfane Town Plan because it does a good job of addressing Forestry Blocks.

Capital Budgeting review of Town Hall: DeSiervo recalled his recollections of the Wiesner plan. He mentioned that the plan consisted of adding a rear addition for an ADA elevator, new bathrooms and a storage vault. Evans expressed a concern that the taxpayers may not be prepared to approve a large expenditure on redoing the Town Hall. Snelling shared his view that the Commission should re-examine the project and costs and go from there. DeSiervo and Evans agreed to try and locate the original study report and drawings.
7. **New Business:** West Townshend Village Center: Canevari reported that he has been in contact with Richard Amore and has a phone call setup for 1/29/21. Canevari has also been in contact with a representative of West River Community Project (WRCP) and thought they were going to attend tonight's meeting to discuss

their plans for constructing a pavilion next to the store. Their original plan was to apply for a “Better Places Grant” which requires VCD. However, the deadline for this year’s grants has passed and they want to build the pavilion in July. Canevari estimated that it would be possible to get VCD complete by July 1st but wasn’t clear if that allowed enough time to get grants approved to meet the WRCP’s timetable. Snelling made a motion that discussion on West Townshend VCD be tabled until next meeting in order to get more information. The motion was seconded by DeSiervo. Evans inquired about the cost of pursuing a VCD. Canevari stated that the costs would be minimal but it would require the Commission’s time. There being no further discussion the vote on the motion to table until the next meeting carried unanimously.

8. Other Business:

Planning Commission Report: Snelling asked if all the members had read the draft report. John had not had the opportunity to read the report, but the other commissioners had seen it. Snelling briefly described the contents of the report. Snelling made a motion to approve the report, the motion was seconded by DeSiervo and carried unanimously.

9. Meeting Schedule:

Regular Meeting: February 10, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting: February 24, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.-

10. Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman, Evans adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Snelling