

Townshend Planning Commission
Minutes
August 25, 2021 on the Town Common

- Present:** John Evans, Bob DeSiervo, Liza Martin and Andrew Snelling
1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.
 2. **Approval of Minutes:** Evans moved to accept the minutes of July 28, 2021 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Martin. The motion passed with DeSiervo abstaining.
 3. **Additions and Deletions:** DeSiervo requested the addition of a discussion on the Tactical Basin report under new business. Snelling asked for a discussion on ARAPA grants to be added under other business. There were no objections to the two additions to the agenda.
 4. **Members of the Public:** none
 5. **Correspondence:** none
 6. **Old Business:**

Capital Budgeting Review of Town Hall: There was an open discussion on the updated report including questions on what was needed, the projected cost, alternative approaches, legal requirements for ADA and implications as a historical structure. DeSiervo mentioned that he had spoken with Metcalfe regarding the restrictions because of the historical nature of the building. The building is not a Federally listed historical structure but is listed as a contributing structure in the State registry of the Townshend Historical District. It was Metcalfe's opinion that unless there were specific historical funds being used that the general requirement was to be consistent with the historical appearance of the building, so as not to detract from the overall appearance of the Historical District. DeSiervo also called attention to the comments in the cost estimate section noting the difficulty in preparing accurate estimates in the current market. Evans made a motion to table further discussion until next meeting. The motion was seconded by Snelling and passed unanimously.

West Townshend VCD: No new update
Act 174 Energy Element: No new updates
 7. **New Business:**

West River Tactical Basin Plan: DeSiervo informed the Commission on what he had learned from the two meetings on the draft Basin Plan. Plans are prepared every five years for each of the Vermont basin areas. The basin plan for the West River is currently in draft form and they are seeking public comments. DeSiervo presented a draft public comment letter

calling attention to the sediment build up behind the Townshend Dam. Following a discussion on the draft letter, Evans made a motion for the Planning Commission to submit the letter to the State. The motion was seconded by DeSiervo and unanimously carried.

8. **Other Business:** ARAPA Grants: Snelling informed the Commission that the County funds were now going to be divided up between the towns based on population. It appears that Townshend will receive a total of \$370,000 over the next two years. The use of the funds is restricted to a number of defined categories. Snelling suggested it was time to start thinking about how to best utilize these Federal grant funds for the betterment of the Town.
9. **Meeting Schedule:** Regular Meeting: September 8, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting: September 22, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.
Weather permitting to be in person at the Gazebo
10. **Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman, Evans adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Snelling