

Townshend Planning Commission
Minutes
Minutes June 14, 2023

- Present:** John Evans, Bob DeSiervo, and Andrew Snelling
1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.
 2. **Additions and Deletions:** none
 3. **Members of the Public:** none
 4. **Approval of Minutes:** DeSiervo moved, and Evans seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of May 24, 2023 as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.
 5. **Correspondence:** none
 6. **Old Business:**

Capital Budgeting Town Hall: DeSiervo provided an update on conversation with Geoff Metcalfe about how to make the ground floor of the Town Hall ADA accessible at the lowest cost. There is sufficient space to convert the women’s room into a single user unisex ADA restroom and also making the current men’s room single user. Metcalfe will provide information by Friday that could be used for obtaining bids and applying for grants.

Snelling mentioned that the Paul Bruhn Historic revitalization grant administered by Preservation Trust of Vermont is a possible funding source for this type of work.
 7. **New Business:**

FEMA flood maps updates: Snelling reported on a recent Webinar on the coming updates to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and Townshend participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The new maps won’t be effective until 2026 but there will be changes and Townshend may want to consider updating the town’s Flood Plain Bylaw, which is a requirement for participation in the NFIP. Participation in the program makes residents eligible for flood insurance and makes the town eligible for Federal and State disaster funds. Many towns are also incorporating the States River Corridor rules as part of the updated Bylaws.

Town Plan Update: Snelling reminded the Commissioners that the town’s town plan expires in September 2025. It may seem like a long way off, but it can take over a year to revise the plan and incorporate new state requirements. It also would make sense to apply for a Municipal Planning Grant and in which case the Commission needs to start working with WRC on the application.

Taft Meadow: Evans mentioned that he had heard from some residents that Taft Meadow was growing in around the edges and that there a number of fallen trees that should be

removed to keep the meadow open. Evans volunteered to look at the situation and report back with his observations.

8. Meeting Schedule:

Regular Meeting: June 28, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting: July 12, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment:

Evans made a motion, seconded by Snelling, to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Snelling