

Townshend Planning Commission
Minutes
Minutes February 14, 2024

Present: John Evans, Bob DeSiervo, and Andrew Snelling.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 7:11 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 January 10, 2024 as submitted and the motion passed.
5. **Correspondence:**

Vermont Outdoor Recreation Survey: The survey requires no action by the Commission. Snelling and DeSiervo completed it providing information based on personal experience.

WRC notice of FEMA DFIRM mapping: The maps are currently in preliminary form for review. The Townshend Flood Plan Bylaw will eventually need to be updated to conform to final maps to continue participation with FEMA

CDM Smith (FEMA contractor) notice of new maps: Snelling downloaded the preliminary maps and attended the suggested webinar which was very technical and not very useful.

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources: The Climate Action Office is announcing the availability of their new Municipal Vulnerability Index tool.

Cory Ciklin letter and proposal for new committee: Mr. Ciklin prepared a proposal for a new town committee to focus on implementing Town Plan action items. Snelling expressed that many of the action items are very aspirational and included based on the State and WRC suggestions and may not be high priority for the town. He also stated that any group would need to focus on specific items and then there is the question of finding people willing to participate. Snelling and DeSiervo offered to contact Mr. Cicklin to talk further regarding his proposal.
6. **Old Business:**

Town Plan: Snelling stated that the Commission should get started on the preliminary work for the Town Plan immediately after Town Meeting. The remaining FY 2023/24 budget and the reserve funds should be sufficient to get going before the start of FY 2024/25 when new funds will be available. The Library is close to finalizing their town survey and has offered to provide anonymous data to the Planning Commission. This data can serve as a starting point for town input and will save the cost and time of conducting a new survey.

Town Hall: The article to raise \$50,000 for a Town Hall reserve fund is in the warning for Town Meeting. There was a discussion on how to best inform the voters regarding the article. DeSiervo recalled some presentations at past Town Meetings and wondered if that would be a good idea if it was permissible. DeSiervo will research if a prepared presentation is allowed as part of discussion of articles.

Town Garage Emergency Power: DeSiervo reported on his meeting with a potential contractor and the subsequent quotes. He said that the contractor had recommended a 40 kva water cooled, propane unit with a new transfer switch to fully power both switch panels in the town garage. The contractor provide quotes for either a Kohler or a Generac generator, but there were some open questions that DeSiervo will follow up on.

7. New Business:

8. Meeting Schedule:

Regular Meeting: February 28, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting: March 13, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment:

Chairman, Evans seeing no further business to come before the Commission, adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Snelling