

# Townshend Planning Commission

## Minutes

Minutes May 22, 2024

**Present:**

John Evans, Bob DeSiervo, Doug Ballantine, Liza Martin and Andrew Snelling

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. **Additions and Deletions:** none
3. **Members of the Public:** none
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Ballantine moved, and DeSiervo seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of May 8, 2024 as submitted. The motion passed.
5. **Correspondence:** none
6. **Old Business:**

Town Plan: Snelling noted that in the absence of Mike McConnell that the Commission should go over the task list and timeline in the project budget. Snelling noted that integrating the draft energy element and adding a section for Act 171 Forest Blocks and Wildlife corridors were the biggest changes. Martin expressed that much of the information for Act 171 can be found on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website.

Town Hall: a) Snelling shared the proposed responses for the Village Trust Initiative (VTI) intake form. He noted that the application can't come from the town but must be a community trust. There was a discussion on how a 501c3 community trust would function regarding a lease of part of the building. Questions were raised about what would happen if the community trust was dissolved. Snelling stated that part of the VTI program is technical assistance in how to address some of the complex issues raised.

b) Evans let the Commission know that he had been able to tour the building with an electrician to get some preliminary information on the electrical system. He said that there is some single-insulated conductor wire (knob & tube) in the rear of the building for the stairway light and outside light. There also appears to be some older wire in the breaker panel in the front hall. He was able to verify that the attic wiring for the Opera House lights are newer and are in conduit. Evans and the electrician noted that the fire alarm wires were snaked under the tin ceiling and will inquire as to how this was accomplished without damaging the tin ceiling.

c) DeSiervo reported that he had sent an email to the Select Board about the maintenance issues observed in the Town Hall with an emphasis on the Opera House windows and roof leaks. He said the Select Board was supportive but it was unclear on how to address the issues.

7. **New Business:** none
8. **Meeting Schedule:** Regular Meeting: June 12, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting: June 26, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.
9. **Adjournment:** Chairman, Evans, seeing no further business to come before the body, adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Snelling