

Minutes of the East Montpelier Planning Commission

Approved 12/1/22

November 3, 2022

PC Members Present: Zach Sullivan (Chair), Clarice Cutler (via zoom), Kim Watson, Richard Hall, Spencer Hardy (via zoom), Mark Lane (via zoom), Lauren Oates (via zoom)

Others Present: Deirdre Connelly; Tom Fisher

Call to Order: 7:07 pm

Changes to Agenda: None.

Public Comment: None.

Review Minutes

The group reviewed the October 20, 2022 minutes.

Motion: To approve the October 20, 2022 minutes as presented. Made by Ms. Watson, second by Mr. Hall. Passed unanimously.

Discussion of Energy Committee Member Job Description/Roles and Skills

Mr. Sullivan introduced Tom Fisher and explained that he was a member on the previous iteration of the Energy Committee and is interested in continuing to be involved.

The group looked at the draft job description and provided feedback. Mr. Hall noted the paragraph talking about ongoing activities listed some very specific tasks and asked how specific the job description aimed to get. Mr. Sullivan explained that he was trying to offer some specific examples so the description didn't feel too vague. Ms. Watson suggested adding the phrase "as an example" in that paragraph to help clarify that section.

Ms. Watson suggested adding technical writing skills under creative skills. She also noted the phrase on "behavioral changes" in the creative skills section and suggested softening that language.

Mr. Sullivan asked the group if they felt the job description that should be published or just used internally. Ms. Watson suggested it could be given to potential members as a recruitment tool, and that they could use the skills section in a Front Porch Forum post.

Discussion of Energy Committee Recruitment Plan

The group discussed the recruitment plan that Mr. Sullivan compiled from past meeting notes, starting with targeted recruitment of identified individuals. He asked if the group had thoughts on trying to specifically recruit a chair. Ms. Watson suggested that it felt a little like a dictatorship and that the committee should elect a chair once it begins to coalesce. She also pointed out that the committee will have a lot to do and may even want co-chairs to help divide the work. The group looked at the list of names and assigned PC members to do outreach.

Mr. Sullivan moved the conversation to the Front Porch Forum post. Ms. Watson suggested making the post while the PC was engaging in one-on-one outreach. Mr. Sullivan will run this by the Selectboard at their next meeting and ask Town Administrator Jenkins to post sometime next week.

The group discussed the idea of a PC meeting designated for meeting potential Energy Committee members and the public forum idea. Mr. Sullivan noted that they didn't need to commit to a public forum now. Ms. Cutler noted that the group wasn't ready for a public forum but felt that it would be valuable at a later date, and suggested a PC meeting for the purposes of talking to potential members would be a good start. Mr. Hardy agreed and suggested that if the PC could get 5-6 potential members at a meeting, a public forum might start to take shape with their input.

Ms. Oates joined the meeting at 7:55 pm. Ms. Cutler exited the meeting at 7:57 pm.

Update re: potential for updates to flood regs

Ms. Watson spoke to Mr. Cueto about the suggested edits and they are planning to meet again tomorrow to discuss in greater detail. The aim of the edits is to make them consistent with the state regulations and to clear up some confusion.

Mr. Sullivan talked to Keith Cubbon at CVRPC and found out that updating the flood regs is less fraught than Mr. Sullivan had initially thought it would be. Ms. Oates was curious to see the edits Mr. Cueto was suggesting and pointed out that making the regs more lenient could threaten the town's ability to enroll in flood insurance. Ms. Watson clarified that there is no intention to make the regs more lenient and will send Ms. Oates the proposed edits.

Updates

- **Capital Improvement Committee-** no update, the next meeting is scheduled for later in November
- **Energy Committee-** no update
- **Resilient Roads Committee-** no update, they are meeting next week to discuss shade trees and the next roads to look at ash trees
- **Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission-** no meeting this month yet; Mr. Sullivan noted that the committee is meeting to review East Montpelier's town plan, he plans to attend and will ask Ms. Cutler if she is also available

ZA Report

None.

DRB Report

Ms. Watson reported that the DRB met earlier this week to elect officers; Mr. Kappel is continuing as chair and Mr. Cueto is continuing as Vice Chair.

Other Business

Mr. Sullivan thanked Mr. Hardy for his input and time on the PC and wished him well with his upcoming move.

Motion: To adjourn. Made by Ms. Watson, second by Mr. Lane. Passed unanimously.

Meeting closed at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deirdre Connelly.