

Town of Benson

PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Submitted to Town Clerk on 3/23/2023

Minutes from Planning Commission meeting held on March 22, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by previous Chair Cheryl Murray.

Motion to approve agenda by Steve Murray, second by Ted Kellogg. All in favor, agenda approved.

No public comment. Select Board Chair Linda Peltier and RRPC representative Maggie O'Brien were also in attendance.

Ted Kellogg nominated Cheryl Murray as Chair. Seconded by Steve Murray. All in favor, motion approved. Cheryl Murray is Chairperson.

Ted Kellogg nominated Steve Murray as Clerk. Seconded by Cheryl Murray. All in favor, motion approved. Steve Murray is new Clerk.

Discussion around term length and open seats. Linda and Cheryl will approach select board for more information.

Discussion continued about the Village Center Designation renewal. Maggie presented a letter from RRPC which must be included in our application. Discussion to bring Ted and Steve up to speed. We talked about how this is normally done by the select board, and it was never done last fall, so the RRPC reached out to the Benson Planning Commission.

Discussion about the repercussions of not doing the renewal (decided to go forward), also about the timeline. The renewal application is due in Montpelier on April 3rd, same day as next select board meeting. Select board cannot approve a resolution for renewal until that evening, and application is due at 4:30 that day in Montpelier. There is a 6 month extension, however, no "points" or "benefits" will be applied for our village during that renewal period.

Decision was made to have Cheryl call Richard Amore (Dept of Housing and Community Development) to attempt to get permission to have a one-day extension and/or find out consequences if we are only a day late with application. If turning the renewal application in late will harm any grants currently applied for, then she will get in touch with Linda to try to hold a special select board meeting to get the resolution approved and signed prior to April 3rd.

Cheryl will work on the new application using the criteria from Maggie and some information received from others regarding work done in the village over the last eight years and send via email to commission members for discussion at the next meeting.

Discussion followed with Maggie re: roles and responsibilities of planning commissions, also discussed what the RRPC can do to help us. Talked about our Town Plan and the fact that renewal will be in two years. Cheryl will get in touch again with Tom Bartholomew and see if he would be available to advise the board going forward with that project.

Discussion re: ARPA funds and whether the select board would like our input. Linda says yes that might be helpful going forward, but their first priority is the new budget and upcoming special meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 29th at 5:00 pm. Clerk will do a warning/agenda for the Town Clerk.

Ted Kellogg made the motion to adjourn at 5:38 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Steve Murray, Clerk, Town of Benson Planning Commission.