

Vershire Planning Commission Meeting minutes for 1/12/22 DRAFT/Revised

In Attendance: Bill Baylis-Chair, Gene Sobeck, Bob Perkins, Nicole White-Fogarty. Sande French-Stockwell-Dev Admin, Debra Kingsbury –Sec’y guests: None

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

Agenda reviewed- added Taylor Valley issue and Town Meeting Date update

Minutes reviewed and accepted as amended.

New Business: Taylor Valley Notice of Violation for security light—light trespassing into neighbor’s home. Sande stated that she had viewed and verified the light and its direction and it appears to be in violation of the Town Dev. Ordinance. Sande questioned who enforces and how the fines are collected. Discussion followed as to the process of sending notification to the offending party via certified mail and the process of hand carrying/serving after 7 days. The role of enforcement was questioned as to falling to the Selectboard or the Dev Admin. Gene Sobeck stated his concerns about putting the Dev Admin in harm’s way as he had knowledge of previous dealings with the offender and suggested that the Orange County Sherriff serve the notice. Sande asked for clarification as to what service and cost would be offered from OCSD and the VT State police in these types of cases. It was noted that this offender had other complaints about noise, lighting, and trash placement. Bob Perkins stated his concerns of the lack of enforcement of the ordinances at this location as well as others in town over the years, and that the Selectboard should delegate some of these issues to law enforcement. The general consensus was to mail the notice certified and then have the OCSD deliver if not replied to in the 7 day time frame. Sande noted that the town ordinance stipulated \$100 per day fine but the state statute indicates \$200 per day, so that needs to be clarified. Baylis made the motion for the Planning Commission to recommend that notice be sent to the offender from the Selectboard and not from the dev. Admin. Gene S. seconded and all were in favor. Sande will contact the SB chair to pass the motion along.

The Commission reviewed their Annual Report to be submitted for the 2021 Annual Town Report and approved it for submission to the town clerk.

Town Meeting timeframe update—Nicole stated that the Selectboard was discussing moving the town meeting from the usual first Tuesday in March until the end of May to enable the meeting to be held outdoors. The State recently authorized the towns to set extended dates due to the increase of Covid cases.

Baylis stated that three of the members terms were up for a vote at the annual town meeting. They are he, and Eleanor Zue and Nicole White-Fogarty. Baylis stated he was on the fence and would decide in February. Gene Sobeck stated that he may have a scheduling conflict and need to step back from his position this year, after being on for 13 years. Bill and Gene noted that it may be time for new volunteers to fill the roles and get to know the community.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.