

Town of Vershire Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 12, 2022 at 7:00pm at Vershire Town Center building.
There will be a remote option for this meeting via Zoom or by phone.

Attendance: Gregory Wilson-chair, Eleanor Zue-vice chair, Nate Thames, Justin Will, Bob Perkins, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Gene Craft-town clerk/treasurer.

Call to Order: G. Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Approval of Minutes: G. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of 11/9/22. J. Will seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Community Health Subcommittee Request: G. Wilson called for a volunteer to take the lead in advocating to the selectboard for the creation of a subcommittee that would compile information about community health in Vershire. The purpose of this research, which would include data and information about local population health, is to provide a foundation for a new section in the Town Plan focusing on health. J. Will will work with Steve Atwood-Health Officer to put together a written proposal for the Selectboard to consider at least one week prior to a regular meeting in January. G. Craft shared that both Gifford and Dartmouth Health compile health data for Orange county and it's possible their findings offer granular, town-level data. G. Wilson will contact Jamie Blondin who might advise the PC about what type of data would be available for a community health assessment of Vershire.

Revising the Town Plan & Topic Discussions: Town Plans are goal and policy oriented and should reflect what the townspeople aspire to for each topic area. An effective town plan is a clear guide (with policy guard rails) for individuals, groups, businesses, organizations, nonprofits, and others, who want to implement the Town Plan's goals and aspirations in concrete form.

Scheduling: G. Wilson suggested meeting twice per month beginning in January 2023. The first meeting of the month (2nd Wednesday) would be taken up with the PC's regular business. The second meeting (4th Wednesday) would be devoted to gathering input on proposed Town Plan topic areas. J. Will recommended that PC members volunteer to serve as facilitators of the topic area discussions that align with their interests and expertise. The first topic meeting scheduled for January 25th at 7pm will focus on Housing and be facilitated by Nate Thames. The second topic meeting scheduled for February 22nd at 7pm will focus on Economic Development and be facilitated by Justin Will.

Promotion: It will be important to spread the word, extend invitations, and encourage persons with interest or expertise in these areas to attend these meetings. Meghan (TRORC intern) will also be contacted and encouraged to participate and asked about resources she thinks would be helpful.

Preparation: Planning Commission members are encouraged to do their homework prior to each topic meeting by reviewing the current TP's section covering that topic area and/or reaching out to members of the community with specific expertise in these areas.

Other: J. Will announced that he will be deployed by the Navy to Germany in March until December and will be unavailable to meet remotely given the time difference. This news got others thinking about when PC member terms expired and whether or not certain individuals will run again or attempt to find replacements to nominate at Town Meeting in March.

Announcement: Reva Seybolt who is spearheading the fundraising campaign for a town center pavilion is requesting help with the effort. She especially needs someone with digital communications and marketing expertise.

Adjourn: G. Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm. N. Thames seconded. The motion passed unanimously.