

**Town of Vershire Planning Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Vershire Town Center.**

**There will be a remote option for this meeting via Zoom or by phone.**

**Attendance:** Gregory Wilson-co-chair, Eleanor Zue-co-chair, Seann Cram, and Gretchen Harvey-secretary.

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

**Agenda Review & Modifications:** Not at this time.

**Public & Staff Comments:** None at this time.

**Approval of Minutes:** G. Wilson moved to approve the meeting minutes of 10/11/23. E. Zue seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Town Plan:** There was a wide-ranging discussion of the good changes made to the Town Plan to date, the strategy for making good progress in 2024, and how best to prepare for M. Asbury's visit in February.

**These next steps were agreed upon:**

- Find out what kind of community event M. Asbury expects to attend this year. - G. Wilson
- Review edits made to the TP and suggest new ones in preparation for the February 14th PC meeting with M. Asbury. - All
- Review the 2016 Survey Questions that preceded the Town Plan 2017. S. Cram sent a Google Doc with the survey out to PC members. Please suggest updates to old questions worth keeping and propose new questions relevant to current conditions in Vershire. See below for some ideas - All
- Invite Eileen Murphy to attend the March meeting in order to provide the PC with updates on the effort to revitalize/reorganize Vershire's Emergency Management Team (VEMT). - G. Harvey

**Ideas for how to generate interest/roll out a NEW TP Survey:**

1. Use language that speaks to top-of-mind issues/concerns: Keeping Vershire Livable, Affordable, and making it a good option for young families with children, equalize the tax burden between permanent and part-time residents (ask Carl D about this question).
2. Roll it out on Town Meeting Day (number the surveys to avoid duplication)
3. Host a Survey Cafe on a Saturday morning that residents can attend, have refreshments, and ask questions.
4. Create a link that can be sent out/or use USPS–how to avoid duplication?

**Brainstorming of topics that could stimulate new survey questions:**

Safety Issues–climate disasters, theft, drugs, domestic violence

Health and Mental Health–livability

Support for families with children: preschool/daycare/after-school programming  
Support for elderly who want to remain in their homes.

Teen Programming

Field trips—children or groups of all ages

Food security, health, farmers market

Building social cohesion—thinking of others/a rural value?

Support participatory democracy (Town Meeting)

Climate resilience: gravel roads, internet access, warming & cooling refuge, other?

Try to drill down into features/qualities that people say they love about Vershire

**Groups & Committees that have sent submissions for the TP to date:**

Energy Committee

Cemetery Trustees

VTCC

\*\*\*\*G Wilson will send out a reminder to the other groups/non profits/Vershare/clubs that he has not yet heard from.

**Town Meeting:** Continue to think about candidates who have the capacity to serve on the PC and engage with this important work. N. Thames has offered to step down.

**Announcements/Other:** Bradford's Town Plan was recently adopted and approved in October 2023. It offers a good model for organization and usability that the PC could consider adopting.  
<https://www.trorc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/town-plan-adopted-oct-12-2023.pdf>

**Adjourn:** G. Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. S. Cram seconded. The motion passed unanimously.