

Town of Vershire Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 12, 2023 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, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, and Seann Cram.

Call to Order: G. Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

Agenda Review & Modifications: J. Will would like to add a discussion of his term on the Planning Commission and a joint meeting idea with W. Fairlee's Planning Commission.

Public & Staff Comments: Seann Cram is exploring what is involved with serving on the Planning Commission.

Approval of Minutes: J. Will moved to approve the minutes of the meetings on 3/8/23 and 3/22/23. E. Zue seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Air Bnbs in Vershire. N. Thames is interested in learning whether or not the administrative burden of collecting a local tax on Air Bnbs is worth it given the relatively low numbers of Air Bnbs in Vershire. G. Craft would be able to answer this question. One extra benefit of having the tax is that it would be a process for tracking the Air Bnbs in Vershire and provide good information for planning.

Preparing for Special Meeting on Town and Emergency Services in two weeks: G. Wilson contacted VFR and a representative will attend the meeting to talk about how Emergency Services fits into the Town Plan and future planning for the future. The highway foreman will also attend to provide similar feedback about town services. G. Wilson also invited a graduate student who is studying water flow through the valley. N. Thames agreed to chair the meeting as G. Wilson will be out of town.

Old Business:

Review Contract from TRORC: J. Will asked a question about the amount of the 90/10 grant and how TRORC arrived at the figure of \$10,000. Discussion followed about the offer. The local matching amount is approximately \$1,100. **Action:** J. Will moved to approve the contract and send it to the Selectboard with a recommendation that the chair sign it. N. Thames seconded. The motion passed unanimously. .

Joint PC Meeting with W. Fairlee: J. Will has spoken to Sean McIntyre who serves on the Planning Commission in W. Fairlee about the possibility of having an occasional joint meeting to discuss issues relevant to both towns. They are just finishing their Town Plan revisions and Vershire might benefit from learning about their process. All agreed this kind of interaction with a PC in a similar sized town could be beneficial.

J. Will's Term as Planning Commissioner: J. Will was appointed to fill a vacancy with a term ending in 2025, however, after one year he needs to be elected to finish that term at Town Meeting. Although he is in Germany until the end of the year, he believes he can remain an active member via remote participation. Someone will need to nominate him at Town Meeting.

Announcements: G. Wilson asked if the PC could create a team of volunteers to take advantage of educational opportunities, persons who would be willing to report back to the PC in exchange for some support in the form of registration fees, etc. There might be residents who would want to contribute to the town in this way.

Accessory Dwelling Units / Home Expo May 6, 2023

The Expo will feature builders, financial experts, home manufacturers, permitting professionals, and more! All are available to answer your questions. Come learn how investing in your property can increase affordable housing units in our communities. This event is also great for people who might want to rent an ADU - or anyone curious about what this form of housing has to offer our communities!

This event is being presented by a partnership of Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission, the Town of Hartford, and Vital Communities and is hosted by the Hartford Area Career & Technology Center.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-home-creators-expo-tickets-559524562027>

Adjourn: G. Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:24pm. N. Thames seconded. The motion passed unanimously.