

**Town of Vershire Planning Commission Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 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, Seann Cram, and Gretchen Harvey-secretary.

**Call to Order:** G. Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

**PC Organization:** chair/vice-chair selection- E. Zue moved to keep G. Wilson as chair and E. Zue as vice-chair. S. Cram seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Review & Modifications:** None at this time.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** E. Zue moved to approve the regular meeting minutes from 6/14/23 and the Topic Forum minutes of 6/28/23. G. Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Recent Catastrophic Weather in Vermont:** The PC spent the majority of this meeting debriefing over recent catastrophic weather events in Vermont and what this means for Vershire, the commission, and revising the Town Plan. It feels strongly that resilience to climate change be a strong theme through the entire Town Plan.

- The PC might want to consider focusing a topic forum on the Town Center Building, the Town Office, the Church-Orr house, and the town website/bulletin board (communications) and consider how the TP could "aspire" to harden these town assets to better help residents in the midst of future disasters. Not everyone knows the TCB has a generator or is a place to go for help if needed.
- The Selectboard meeting on 7/18 will hear from A. Herrington, who is Vershire's representative/commissioner on TRORC (Two Rivers Ottaquechee Regional Planning Commission) and is knowledgeable about emergency response planning in town and in the region.
- Existing road classifications and realistic maintenance expectations for a town of this size needs more discussion.
- Education and communications pathways are important for times of disasters and extreme weather events that will be more frequent than in the past.
- What are the risks of washouts (driveways)and mudslides in areas that are away from river banks. How might these risks be mitigated?
- How can Vershire itself become more resilient knowing that federal assistance (FEMA) will not be able to keep up with disaster aid/resources in the future.
- Is it possible for the Ely mine site (once it is reclaimed) to be turned into some kind of solar field or used in a way to help transition the town towards a more secure energy system—as has been done in Strafford?

**New Business:**

- **Preparing for the Meeting on 7/26 (land use/natural resources);** The Planning Commission decided to postpone this topic forum to a date/time to be determined in favor of discussing revisions to the Town Plan. The focus will be on sharing revisions to the Economic Development, Housing, and Education sections of the Town Plan. G. Harvey will send everyone a pdf of all the Topic Forum minutes to date. She will also try to secure the original copy of the TP that can be used to track changes online.

**Old Business:**

- **August 9th and working meal/dinner with Meghan Asbury. Preparation strategy:** The PC decided to begin the meeting at 6:30 and adjourn by 8:00pm. Volunteers will provide a light meal, pot-luck style, to facilitate a working meeting.

**Announcements:**

- G. Harvey resent DBA decision letter via regular mail 6/29/23; first copies sent certified mail on 5/23/23 were returned.
- G. Harvey invited the Vershire Historical Society to review and suggest edits to the section of the Town Plan that covers Vershire historical landscapes and places of historic significance.

**Adjourn:** G. Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm. S. Cram seconded. The motion passed unanimously.