

Town of Vershire Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 13, 2023 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-chair, Eleanor Zue-vice chair, Seann Cram, Nate Thames, Gretchen Harvey-secretary, Terry Lemieux, and Aaron Hoopes-Development Administrator.

Call to Order: G. Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Agenda Review & Modifications: Add Terry Lemieux—ROW VT RTE 113

Public & Staff Comments:

Terry Lemieux—joined the meeting via Zoom link. She lives near the temporary bridge on VT 113. The guardrails were adjusted for the bridge and her access to her driveway is very narrow. Complicating access are some items on her neighbor's land near the ROW. She worries that a tree service truck or fuel trucks will have a difficult time getting to her house. The PC will ask the Dev Admin to check out this situation as soon as possible and will give him her contact info. Aaron Hoopes - DA joined the meeting when he was able to, and agreed to follow up with this matter. Two relevant questions include: how much did the temporary bridge encroach on her ROW, and what responsibility does the landlord (of the house near her driveway) bear in assuring a certain ROW for her home. The DA also agreed to submit a brief written report of his activity each month to the PC for their meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. This will allow the PC to develop a better sense of the development activity and needs in Vershire.

Approval of Minutes: G. Wilson moved to approve regular meeting minutes from 8/8/23 and topic forum minutes of 8/23/23. E. Zue second. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- **Prepare for M. Asbury visit 10/11/23:** We will meet again at 6:30 for the purpose of sharing a light supper prior to a working meeting discussing revisions to the town plan. The sections to be reviewed are Housing, Energy, and Natural Resources/Current & Future Land Use

G. Wilson expects that the town committees (mission statements and goals) and others (VHS and Vershare) he has reached out to will be writing up statements to include in the town plan revisions.

E. Zue reiterated that she would like to see the statistics portion of the plan updated. It is unclear when this updated data will be accessible to M. Asbury.

G. Wilson encouraged everyone to look at the working TP document and review or suggest changes prior to the meeting with M. Asbury on October 11th.

- **Planning for Topic Forum on September 27, 2023** on Natural Resources/ Current and Future Land Use.

Invited guests include: Markus Bradley (Redstart); Andy Boyce (Upper Valley Land Trust); and Kathy Hooke (environmental studies focus in secondary education). Each guest will have 10 minutes to present (answer a question asked ahead of time) and then the round table will open up for Q & A. Debra Kingbury will be invited as will others interested in how ecology and development intersect in Vershire.

Old Business:

- Review Topic Forum List and plan forums/dates for the rest of 2023

J. Will emailed suggestions for combining topics were discussed, including: combining Flood Resilience, Emergency ,and Population Health all into a general "Community Resilience" topic that includes both physical and mental well-being of residents, both in crisis and steady state. Commissioners thought that these topics could be organized in the printed TP in this way, but that a forum on all these would be too much for one evening. Another suggestion was to combine "Scenic and Historic Resources..." and "Community Assets" would also all fit under a general "Recreation" topic. There seemed to be a consensus that the Emergency Services topic (in light of poor attendance and recent flooding) could use another session. No decisions were made about dates/topics at this time.

Announcements/Other:

Adjourn: G. Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm. S. Cram seconded. The motion passed unanimously.