

Town of Vershire Planning Commission Meeting Minutes DRAFT
Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Vershire Town Center.

Attendance: Gregory Wilson, co-chair, Eleanor Zue, co-chair, Liana Horster, Michelle Massa, Aaron Hoopes, Development Administrator, Eileen Murphy, guest, Helen Wilson, secretary

Call to Order: G. Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm.

Agenda Modification: Aaron will present his report, followed by discussion with Eileen. Additional item: Discussion of Proposed new land use maps from TRORC.

Aaron Hoopes:

- A Notice of Violation of the Vershire Exterior Lighting Ordinance was sent on October 23, 2025 to Mr. William Carroll on Taylor Valley Road, concerning high intensity exterior light directed toward roads and neighboring houses. Mr. Carroll responded suggesting we turn it over to the Town Lawyer. This is not an available option.
- Continuing to work with person on Parker Road, who has been cleaning up the property in question.
- Note that the person on Kingdom Road who has been reporting the problem on Parker Road has a non-permitted shed. Aaron will check on size allowance for non-permitted buildings to see if he needs a permit.

Discussion with Eileen Murphy about Emergency Management and how might the Planning Commission interface with the Emergency Management team.

There was brief review of the Planning Commission's duties as outlined in several section of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) which is available on the Vershire town website. Noted was the need to "Support projects to protect or restore rivers, and water quality, including riparian plantings." It was suggested that this would be a good project for volunteers along with the PC members. Sabra Ewing would be a good person to contact for help and information.

Eileen described the breakdown of the town into 17 Neighborhoods, each of which should have a volunteer contact person in case of emergencies. We currently have only 5, and Eileen will write up a short description of the duties, and re-post on Facebook and/or list-serve to try to fill the remaining 12 slots.

Eileen emphasized the importance of everyone's enrolling in VTAlerts, as each household can be notified of emergencies via SMS/TEXT, E-Mail, Mobile Phone, Work or Home Phone, and TTY/TDD Devices. When you enroll, you can choose up to 5 additional locations to be alerted about. Vershire would alert the state about road closings, etc., and the state sends out the alerts.

Some other aspects of Vershire's Emergency Preparedness:

- The Emergency Operations Center is for big events, and has not been needed to date.
- Each 911 call response has an Incident Commander, who is usually the first person to arrive on the scene. They can hand it off to another person in the chain of command, if necessary or appropriate.
- Other aspects of Emergency responses are outlined in detail in the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) available on the town website.

Questions from members of the Planning Commission:

1. Would it be useful to have someone in each neighborhood with a ham radio? Answer: There are very few people locally using ham radio. There are groups in other parts of Vermont who could be contacted for more information. Something we could use in Vershire is more repeaters for radio communications among responders.
2. Should Vershire develop springs where residents could obtain water if wells run dry? Answer: there are questions of potability and safety of spring water, and liability if someone becomes ill after using it. There is information about spring safety on a state website.

PC members expressed their gratitude for Eileen's sharing her expertise, and indicated their interest in continuing to interface with the Emergency team.

After the meeting, Eileen shared this link:

<https://vem.vermont.gov/preparedness/kit?wpmobileexternal=true>

It leads to state and federal links for individual emergency preparedness

Review and Discussion about the proposed new Land Use Maps.

The question of how the new Tier system in Act 181 will affect how land can be used, and the impact on land values. The maps were examined to see which areas might be affected, and how they differ from the previous map. Michelle will seek additional information from Vershire's listers.

Next regular Meeting, Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.