

# Barre City Planning Commission

## February 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes

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Present: Michael Hellein (Chair), Amanda Gustin (Vice Chair), Joe Reil (Secretary), Rosemary Averill, Raylene Meunier, David Sichel, Becky Wigg

Absent: None

Staff: Janet Shatney (Director of Planning, Permitting & Assessing)

Visitors: Representative Peter Anthony

### 1. Call to Order.

5:30pm.

### 2. Adjustments to the Agenda.

None.

### 3. Approval of Minutes.

#### i. November 10, 2022.

Meunier mentioned she was not listed on previous minutes. Reil will revise Minutes to add her to the list of members Present.

**Gustin moves to approve (with amendment), Meunier seconds, unanimous in favor.**

### 4. Public comment (for something not on the agenda)

None.

### 5. New Business

#### i. Receive update on grant status from staff.

Shatney reported approval of the Bylaw Modernization Grant and has begun working on an RFP for a consultant, she also mentioned the Municipal Planning Grant and that we have not received an answer on that grant yet.

There was some discussion around challenges in hiring a consultant. Much of the work can be done remotely, which could allow us to cast a wider net for a consultant. Timing was also discussed, there is a reasonable window of time, though not unlimited.

Shatney suggested providing the Commission with a copy of the RFP for review and discussion.

ii. Review recent input to state legislature regarding parking policy.

Discussion of a Bill being introduced, recognizing the housing crisis, considering tweaks to Statewide regulations and zoning, including parking minimums, which we have discussed before.

Representative Anthony mentioned that other communities in the State are looking at parking adjustments, specifically.

There was more discussion about the Bill, how it is unusual for the State to be getting involved in zoning at this level and about how many elements of this could impact future work of the Planning Commission for Barre City and will need to be considered as it develops.

Wigg mentioned a recent story on Vermont Public that discussed recent zoning changes in Morrisville and their impact on that community, as well as touching on this Bill:

<https://www.vermontpublic.org/show/vermont-edition/2023-02-07/morrisville-is-booming>

Gustin suggested that this Bill, or one like it, is going to come through so we should stay on top of it and provided a link to testimony by Representative Bongartz of Morrisville:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aa7eZQ23k68>

There was some follow-up discussion on updated winter parking regulations and how this might impact the wider parking discussion. Shatney reported that there is testing of some changes to be implemented next winter.

Averill asks if Barre City has any grounding to oppose new State regulations if we do not like them. Shatney and Hellein responded that no, that is not really an option.

6. Confirm Date of Next Meeting.

i. March 9, 2023

7. Staff Updates.

Wigg asked about the status of previous updates to the Unified Development Ordinance that the Planning Commission was suggesting to Council. Shatney responded that this has not yet gone before Council but is in the works.

St. Monica's Church is appealing the DRB decision to deny their request to demolish a vacant building.

Gustin asked for updates on two previous Staff Updates, the Foy Mill and a possible demolition of the Italian Baptist Church. There was some discussion of the details but nothing significant to report on either.

Sichel asked about status of staff vacancies, Shatney has two applications for the Permit Administrator position but not for any others.

8. Round Table.

None.

9. Adjourn

6:21 pm, **Sichel moves to adjourn, Gustin seconds, unanimous in favor.**