

Barre City Planning Commission

August 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Present: Michael Hellein (Chair), Joe Reil (Secretary), Rosemary Averill, Caitlin Corkin, Raylene Meunier, David Sichel, Becky Wigg

Absent: None

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

Visitors: None

1. Call to Order.

Called to order at 5:30pm.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda.

None.

3. Approval of Minutes.

- i. May 25, 2023 view draft minutes.

Sichel moves to approve; Averill seconds; unanimous in favor.

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

None.

5. New Business

- i. Election of officers.

There was a suggestion to keep the two existing officers and Hellein nominated Wigg for Vice Chair.

Sichel moves to close nominations; Averill seconds; unanimous in favor.

Corkins moves to accept nominations; Sichel seconds; unanimous in favor.

Officers are now: Michael Hellein (Chair), Becky Wigg (Vice Chair), Joe Reil (Secretary)

- ii. Creation of an RFP subcommittee for two awarded grants.

There was discussion about the purpose of the subcommittee, to review RFP applications and interview applicants, to then bring findings back to the entire Planning Commission.

There were some concerns about the timing of the interviews, ensuring they fit within work schedules.

Averill, Reil, and Wigg volunteered to form the RFP subcommittee.

Sichel moves to appoint volunteers; Corkin seconds; unanimous in favor.

- iii. Notice of ADU interim zoning changes on upcoming council agenda.

Shatney informed the Planning Commission that the previously discussed ADU zoning changes will be presented before City Council on August 29, suggests that members of the Commission attend the meeting, if possible, to address any questions or comments. Hellein and Reil indicated they will be present for that meeting.

- iv. Status update on planning-related aspects of flood.

Shatney gives background of flood and summarizes some of the damage.

Some discussion around what zoning issues could be discussed to help resolve these issues, lot sizes and zoning designations could be looked at to help. Question about any short-term items we could look at while the larger discussions are taking place?

Discussion around what to do about drainage for future flooding situations. No suggestions at this time, but something that should be thought about.

- v. Review of current North Main Street plan.

Hellein notes that this is not intended to be a full review in substantial detail yet, just a high level look for now, considering that one of the RFPs could impact this plan.

Question and discussion about what the plan was originally intended to achieve and what has been done so far, Sichel indicates not much has been achieved with it yet. Consultants indicated parking was not a problem, so plan's focus on parking was misplaced.

Discussion around taking better advantage of dense residential areas near Summer St. and connecting it to Main St. Sichel mentions that many of the parking areas that are present are privately owned vs. publicly, which adds some challenges.

There was a suggestion for setting up site visits to review the area directly before cold weather fully sets in.

Question and discussion about how to engage with private land owners who own property that may be impacted by the discussion and what if any outreach is needed to make them aware of the plan being discussed. Sichel indicates the original plan did reach out and there were well-attended workshops resulting.

6. Confirm Date of Next Meeting.

- i. September 14, 2023

7. Staff Updates.

No updates.

8. Round Table.

Corkins introduces herself, asked other members of the Planning Commission for a brief introduction.

9. Adjourn

6:36pm; **Wigg moves to adjourn; Hellein seconds; unanimous in favor.**