



City of Barre, Vermont

“Granite Center of the World”

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Planning Commission Meeting Minutes March 8, 2018 at 6:30 P.M. Council Chambers, City Hall (6 N Main St)

A regular meeting of the Barre City Planning Commission was called to order by Commission Chair Jackie Calder at 6:30 pm at City Hall. In attendance were Commissioners Michael Hellein and Dave Sichel, Jim Hart and Ken Lunde. Also in attendance were Janet Shatney, Planning Director, Heather Grandfield, Permit Administrator, the consultant, Brandy Saxton of PlaceSense joined via telephone, and Lucas Herring, Mayor. Chair Calder determined that there was a quorum for the evening.

Adjustments to the Agenda: None.

Visitors and Communications: A new resident of Orange Street joined the meeting, interested in the work done by the Commission, and interested in joining.

Old Business: A motion was made by Commissioner Sichel and seconded by Commissioner Hellein to approve the minutes from the Special February 27, 2018 meeting, motion carried unanimously.

A continued review of working draft occurred, beginning with Section 4 *Administrative Mechanisms* page 151 Site Plan Review. Ms. Saxton reminded us all that most of the entire section is procedural, and based largely on statute, process we must abide by. We finished Section 4 with no current changes, and a brief discussion on conducting a DRB hearing, and agreed that their Rules of Procedure would be revised accordingly. Section 5 *Definitions* was reviewed, and no changes were made at this point.

1. Ms. Saxton then reviewed that needed to be reviewed for decision making. They were:
2. Holiday lights: she will add a general exemption for, and a 90 day max;
3. Snowmobile trails: she will remove out of zoning, out of passive recreation, and leave that to the Council’s decision;
4. Confirmed the allowed uses to be listed in the draft Adaptive Reuse Overlay District (i.e., greenhouses, aquaculture, etc.);
5. Parking in the UC-1 section and whether or not to call out the N. Main to Summer St. Plan, decided to not to name the plan specifically because of future updates and changes thereto;
6. Sign general standards, she added language for the “Open” flags for merchants, specifics for window signs, and feather and whip type signs;
7. Specific language added to the Mobile Food Service definition.

Chair Calder questioned the historic district delineation and what Ms. Saxton discovered when communicating with Mr. Coleman at Historic Preservation. The limit of our Historic District has not

changed, but some buildings' designations have changed within the limit. Digital sign message length was briefly discussed, and Commissioner Lunde asked about the Certificate of Compliance.

We went over the outline for the March 22nd presentation, aiming for about 90 minutes, with time for questions, etc. We will hold it as a regular meeting as long as there is a quorum in attendance (Commissioner Hart will not be there) so will open and close the meeting. Methods of publicizing the event were talked about.

New Business: At 8:05, we discussed Commissioner Hellein's requested agenda item being the N. Main to Summer Street Plan and the Commission's endorsement thereof. He stated that although the plan was adopted in 2012, it is reasonable to discuss, considering the bond vote passed at Town Meeting Day. He points out that our Central Business District is surrounded by parking. How do we fix our parking problems? We need to focus on things that create a natural environment. He feels that the Commission should 1) communicate to Council and staff that Pearl Street was never planned as a pedestrian street, and that resources should be coordinated in support of the plan's real recommendations; and 2) Withdraw Planning Commission support for the parking plans in the N. Main to Summer Street Plan in favor of a goal of strengthening neighborhood walk/bike connections.

Commissioner Sichel agreed that it's very worthwhile to revisit and dig into it, but he isn't convinced that pulling support is the avenue to take. Talk of asking the City Manager to come for an agenda item was discussed.

Commissioner Hellein made a motion to recommend to the City Council to not move forward with the Pearl Street Pedestrian Way until the Planning Commission can revisit the N. Main to Summer Street Plan. Commissioner Lunde seconded. Further discussion included reconsidering spending money before the Master Plan revision is complete. The motion carried with Commissioner Sichel voting against, 4-1.

Other Business: None.

Roundtable: None.

A motion to adjourn at 8:39 pm was made by Commissioner Hellein and seconded by Commissioner Hart, motion carried. There is no audio recording of this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet E. Shatney, Director