



# *City of Barre, Vermont*

## *“Granite Center of the World”*

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### **Planning Commission Meeting Minutes April 25, 2018 at 6:30 P.M. Council Chambers, City Hall (6 N Main St)**

A special meeting of the Barre City Planning Commission was called to order by Commission Chair Jackie Calder at 6:31 pm at City Hall. In attendance were Commissioners Michael Hellein, Jim Hart and Ken Lunde, and David Sichel. Also in attendance were Janet Shatney, Planning Director, Heather Grandfield, Permit Administrator, Michael Buzzi, City Business Owner, Brenda Waterhouse, Spaulding High School Principal, Jamie Evans, Barre Supervisory Union Facilities Director, and the consultant, Brandy Saxton of PlaceSense. Chair Calder determined that there was a quorum for the evening.

**Adjustments to the Agenda:** None.

**Visitors and Communications:** Andrew Kutches, resident, developer, interested in Barre City committees, visiting several.

**Old Business:** A motion was made by Commissioner Lunde and seconded by Commissioner Hart to approve the minutes from the Regular April 12, 2018 meeting, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion continued regarding the Farwell Street properties owned by Mr. Buzzi. Commissioner Sichel said that the last time the change occurred was that the Planning Commission then said changing to another zoning district was incorrect, and the intension was to stay commercial. They corrected the mistake. As to the proposed change, Ms. Saxton reiterated the ideas regarding changing them to MU-3 (Mixed Use-3) and GB (General Business) as she stated at the last meeting. Commissioner Hart stated he stands by his opinion of the last meeting to go with MU-3, and that the businesses will be grandfathered. Commissioner Hellein stated he had no preference one way or the other as far as a possible change. Commissioner Lunde make a motion to change Mr. Buzzi’s Farwell Street properties from the proposed R-12 to the GB District. There was no further discussion and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Saxton said she would remove the proposed Adaptive Reuse Overlay from that area as well. Mr. Buzzi remained for the rest of the meeting.

Next, Ms. Brenda Waterhouse and Mr. Jamie Evans of Spaulding High School spoke, thanking the Planning Commission for working with them as they have worked out the needs of their proposed digital sign. To finalize their needs, Mr. Evans said that based on the drawings provided for the granite posts and top piece, that the overall sign as designed is 8’-8 ¾” tall by 8’-6” wide. The current proposed draft ordinance states that the overall height cannot exceed 12 feet (which they meet) and 8 feet wide. They are here to request the Commission revise the width requirement to accommodate their design, or acknowledge a forgiveness of 6 inches if the width doesn’t change. Commissioner Hellein stated that he doesn’t want to see an increase by inches (i.e., 8 ft max width becomes 8’-4”, 8’-6”) and that a whole number would work better. The commission agreed to revise the max width of a Pole or Monument sign to 9 feet.

A continuation of the table of comments occurred, as Director Shatney was able to add the remaining comments she'd received to date, for further discussion. That table will be posted on the city website as it gets updated.

**New Business:** None.

**Other Business:** Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 10, 2018. Director Shatney hopes to have comments by the Public Works Director by then, as well as citizen and business owner input. Commissioner Sichel will not be able to attend this meeting.

**Roundtable:** None.

A motion to adjourn at 8:03 pm was made by Commissioner Hellein and seconded by Commissioner Lunde, motion carried. There is no audio recording of this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Janet E. Shatney, Director

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