

To be approved at the August 13, 2020 meeting

**Regular Meeting and Hearing of the Barre City Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes for July 23, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.**

The regular meeting and hearing of the Barre City Planning Commission was called to order virtually by Commission Chair Michael Hellein at 6:35 pm. In attendance, participating via Zoom were Commissioners Rachel Rudi, Jackie Calder, and Dave Sichel. Also present via video was Planning Director Janet Shatney. Chair Hellein determined that there was a quorum was present.

Absent: None.

- I. **Adjustments to the Agenda:** Chair Hellein asked if there were any adjustments, and there were none.
- II. **Public Comment (*for something that is not on the agenda*):** Chair Hellein noted there was no member of the public in attendance, therefore there were no public comments.
- III. **Old Business:** Nothing for the evening. Commissioner Calder asked about the previous meeting's minutes, and the Chair said they were to be put off until the next meeting, as he wasn't sure how long the hearing would take.
- IV. **New Business**

A. Warned Public Hearing on the 2020 DRAFT Municipal Plan

Motion was made by Commissioner Sichel and seconded by Commissioner Rudi to open the hearing for the City Plan, motion carried. The Chair said that with no public present, there was little reason to go back and state any history, as we are talking among ourselves at this point.

Chair Hellein said that he felt the changes suggested by Mayor Herring didn't rise to the level of major or technical changes, but more copyright revisions (numbering, committee proper names, etc.). He also stated that his response is that we aren't trying to make the perfect plan on this pass.

Commissioner Sichel stated that some of the comments made are beyond what a City Plan is, something like who is to take the lead on a project or undertaking, and is more a function of the City Council or City Manager and staff. Once the plan is adopted, they would be the ones to take the initiative to designate someone to take the lead, if not already happening.

Commissioner Calder stated that because she had little time to review the Mayor's comments prior to the hearing, she was confused if they would end up needing another hearing. She is concerned that what happened with the Unified Development Ordinance will happen with the City Plan, meaning it will get to the Council, and then more comments will come out and it gets sent back. The suggestion is to change what can be changed and forward to Council, and Council understand that it's a revised and updated plan, not a re-write.

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Commissioner Sichel suggested stating that in the response to the Mayor, not go bullet by bullet, but refer to them contextually, and help frame what the City Plan is and isn't, that it's not meant to be perfect. And, perhaps when the Strategic Plan is completed and adopted, that it will help compliment the city plan and the goals laid out.

Commissioner Calder referred to the healthy Barre City theme, and that is what the city needs to reflect, and the plan is not what the city government can do. This is a very important qualifier that needs to be noted.

Commissioner Rudi asked how other commissioners felt about the glossary suggestion. The Chair suggested that with any glossary, especially when not created from scratch is hard to know what to put in it. Commissioner Sichel suggested that it's a good idea, but prepare one that is outside the city plan, and could be on the website, and is something that wouldn't hold up the plan, but an aid for users of the plan to refer to but not part of the plan, at least for not this go-round. The Commission all agreed that for now, a separate one will suffice. Staff will assemble something for review by the Commission prior to posting.

3 action items have come out of the evening's discussion:

1. Make the factual changes that are recommended from Mayor's Herring list and agreed on by the Commission;
2. Start the process of creating a glossary that won't be contained in the plan and will reside out on the city website as a reference tool; and
3. Have a response to some of his questions that includes a reference to his glossary.

Data that was noted in conflict by the mayor, specifically the police data, the Commission needs it to be made clear that we can correct mistakes made in here, but that we did talk to the Police Chief, and we did get comments from the Public Works Director. That everyone was asked several times for comments, and did get input, where the Commission didn't get it in 2013-2014. Commissioner Rudi suggested we need to be cognizant and be very careful with discrepancies, and who was the source, with what is happening in society today. If its data revisions, we could make changes, but would be doing so annually or more frequently. Commissioner Sichel said the point of the data is to give a direction of the plan as opposed to be worrying about what the data actually says. His inclination is to leave it, as there is enough going on with law enforcement and public safety, that leave it as a marker rather than try and edit it.

Discussion over the comments provided by were that it appeared were comments made in reference to access in housing. The Commission stated that the Mayor's comments were very specific but that the ADA comments were more narrative, and perhaps we should ask if they had suggestions where they wanted verbiage to go. Commissioner Sichel stated that anything that is a narrative and not an action is not a substantive change so it's not a problem to acknowledge the ADA committee and issues with access. With many aspects of housing for all throughout the plan, we could have something in the very beginning; that it's something to

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be paid attention to. We will make suggestions as to where narrative can be added as it heads to council.

4. A motion was made by Commissioner Sichel to approve sending the city plan on the City Council for review, subject to the 3 action items: 1 - Make the factual changes that are recommended from Mayor's Herring list and agreed on by the Commission; 2 - Start the process of creating a glossary that won't be contained in the plan and will reside out on the city website as a reference tool; and 3 - Have a response to some of the Mayor's questions that includes a reference to his glossary, and was seconded by Commissioner Rudi, motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Calder to close the public hearing at 7:22 pm and was seconded by Commissioner Rudi, motion carried unanimously.

- V. **Updates:** The Chair updated the Commission by saying he finished his summary of the survey, and will send out to the Commission to review.

A review of the timeline for city council meetings and hearings occurred, as well as a review of CVRPC's role in the plan.

Commissioner Calder asked about any updates: The Planning Director reviewed the Salvation Army settlement proposal and how that works with the City Council and the attorneys. Another update was the proposed Allen Street School approved by the DRB at the beginning of July 2020, is a brand new school to be built to replace the space rented in the Wall Street Complex. The other item noted was that the budget still is being considered, with revisions and reductions.

- VI. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Calder and seconded by Commissioner Sichel at 7:36, passed unanimously.