

# Barre City Planning Commission

## May 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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Present: David Sichel (Chair), Jackie Calder (Vice Chair), Michael Hellein (Secretary), Amanda Gustin, Thomas Lauzon, Rachel Rudi

Staff: Janet Shatney

### 1. Call to Order

6:44pm

### 2. Adjustments to the Agenda

1. No adjustments.

### 3. Public Comment

No public comment.

### 4. Old business

1. Approve meeting minutes of May 13, 2021

**Motion: Lauzon, Second Calder, Approved**

### 5. New business

1. Discussion of Role in Promoting ARP (American Rescue Plan) Funds for Housing

Chair laid the groundwork for discussion, outlining that \$100 million for emergency housing and \$149 million for housing would be made available under the ARP, leading to 5000 housing units statewide added by 2024.

Hellein stated that the Planning Commission has already delivered what's necessary to guide investment in the form of the Municipal Plan. Lauzon stated that Barre's proportional share of 5000 statewide units is 84, and we should do what we can to make sure that development happens, suggesting a whitepaper to encourage public/private partnership.

There was discussion of the role of the Planning Commission relative to other bodies and organizations for the purpose of economic development. Chair Sichel serves on the board of Barre Area

Development, Inc. (BADC) and he expressed a hope that organization would take a greater interest in residential development as a component of economic development. Consensus formed around creating a whitepaper summarizing the projects and investments recommended by the adopted 2020 Municipal Plan, with the Chair suggesting presenting the document to Council was a good way to start the conversation on future action.

**Motion: Sichel, Gustin, and Lauzon will create a whitepaper document summarizing the Municipal Plan's recommendations for projects and investments in the context of the ARP. An outline will be presented at the next meeting (6/10) and a draft at the subsequent meeting (6/24). Hellein, Second Calder, passed unanimous.**

6. Staff Updates

Shatney reported that the Assessor position is still unfilled, and that absorbs a lot of staff time. The upcoming DRB meeting is proving controversial as a result of an application to demolish a building to create parking. An at-large member of the DRB is resigning.

7. Round Table

No updates.

8. Adjourn

7:56pm, **Motion Hellein, Second Gustin, Adjourned**