

Barre City Planning Commission

July 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

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

1. Call to Order

6:32pm

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

No adjustments.

3. Public Comment

No public comment.

4. Old business

A. Approve meeting minutes of June 24, 2021

Motion: Lauzon, Second Rudi, Approved

B. Continue discussion of Housing Whitepaper with future steps

Sichel stated that the Mayor and City Manager wanted more direction from the whitepaper, with Gustin clarifying that they were looking for connections between funding and projects, though the funding isn't known yet. It was also clarified that the whitepaper is not concerned with ARPA funding made available to the City, but to the larger funding stream meant to support residential development.

Lauzon added it is not appropriate for the Planning Commission to say which projects should happen unless the City is taking on the role of developer. Sichel added that the City should find the appropriate groups to spearhead the pursuit of what is in the Municipal Plan.

Hellein suggested that the whitepaper does what the Planning Commission moved to create, a summary of housing in the Municipal Plan, and it would make sense to publish it in its current form and let

everyone work on ideas, and the Planning Commission can connect funds when we know where they come from.

Lauzon stated it made sense to publish the whitepaper in draft form, because the main goal is to get people thinking about it. Rudi concurred that getting community feedback is desirable and supported publishing the draft.

Calder and Gustin suggested adding a recommendation to the whitepaper for City Council to create a working group to plan for using funds, and the Commission assented to making that change.

Gustin will make final edits to the whitepaper draft, and Shatney will provide data from 2018 and 2019. Gustin will provide final draft for review by 8/5 and Planning Commission will consider at the next meeting on 8/12.

5. New business

No new business.

6. Staff Updates

Shatney presented staff update information from packet, with some conversation from Commission. **Shatney will provide Planning Grant information to Planning Commission to prepare for next meeting.**

7. Round Table

Gustin asked if the Planning Commission should consider removing recommendation for PACE from the Municipal Plan. Shatney suggested bringing the question to the Energy Committee. **Gustin will email PACE article link to Shatney to forward to the Planning Commission.**

Hellein recollected that the Municipal Plan suggests a quarterly meeting between the Planning Commission and the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Paths, Routes and Trails Committee. If that's indeed the case, he suggested that to be scheduled for a future meeting.

8. Adjourn

7:41pm, **Motion Lauzon, Second Gustin, Adjourned**