



City of Barre, Vermont

“Granite Center of the World”

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Planning Commission Meeting Minutes September 28, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. Council Chambers (6 N. Main Street)

A regular meeting of the Barre City Planning Commission was called to order by Commission Chair Jackie Calder at 6:32 pm at Alumni Hall. In attendance were Commissioners Dave Sichel, Jim Hart, Michael Hellein, and Ken Lunde. Also in attendance were Janet Shatney, Planning Director, Heather Grandfield, Permit Administrator, and Brandy Saxton of PlaceSense. Chair Calder determined a quorum was present.

Adjustments to the Agenda: Chair Calder said that she would rearrange the agenda to accommodate the City Manager, who was in attendance.

Visitors and Communications: None.

Old Business: Consideration of the September 14, 2017 meeting minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Sichel and seconded by Commissioner Hart to approve the minutes as printed, *motion carried.*

New Business: City Manager Mackenzie stated that the City is trying to find funding to kickstart the Merchant’s Row Redevelopment Project. The City would like to apply to be able to use the funds toward the environmental site characterization. Merchant’s Row is nothing like the Enterprise Aly project in terms of hazardous contamination, but identifying and sampling is required. He also volunteered that the owner of the Metro Way property behind Merchant’s Row has said that the Bike Path will be able to go through it, on that side of the railroad tracks so that the redevelopment has more room.

Commissioner Sichel made the motion to support and approve the Chair to sign the planning Grant resolution, with Commissioner Hellein seconding, *motion carried unanimously.*

Old Business, continued: Discussion of the public service board letters ensued, and Director Shatney let the Commission know that the Regional Planning Commission determined that they did not meet their definition of substantial regional impact.

A review of the Administrative Section of the draft began. A discussion regarding the ability to have a Technical Review Committee, that the City is already doing on an informal basis, but this

language authorizes the ability if need be. Change in wording was suggested by Commissioner Sichel, and Ms. Saxton will come back with some recommendations.

Regarding the ability to have a Design Advisory Committee, statute states there must be at least 3 members, and they must have some level expertise to be on it, like an engineer, an architect, etc., and, more discussion on projects that would stay at the Administrator level, and those that would go on to the Development Review Board.

Commissioner Sichel suggested sending the portion of the Development Review Board's section to them to get some feedback.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Thursday October 12th in Council Chambers where we will discuss the remaining Administrative language and start the overlay language once forwarded.

Roundtable: Commissioner Hellein mentioned that the Development Review Board will be hearing an application to demolish the former Dunkin' Donuts building on N. Main Street, and the concern that the City Master Plan has stated that there are specific designs as to downtown parking lots, their location and their orientation, that he will be attending the meeting, to remind them of the Master Plan efforts.

Motion to adjourn at 8:13 pm pm was made by Commissioner Sichel, and seconded by Commissioner Hart, *motion carried*.

There is no audio recording of this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet E. Shatney, Director