

Poultney Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 16, 2022 – 6:00 pm
Town Office
9 Main Street, Poultney, Vermont

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Members in attendance included Doug Langdon, Mary-Sue Reed, Mark Teetor, Neal Vreeland, and Jaime Lee. Others in attendance included Paul Donaldson, Zoning Administrator, Terry Williams, David Cooper, Michael Zhao, James Johnson, Tim Farrell, Nic Stark, Bob Scott, Carol Bunce, Kerry O. Furlani, Kat Ruegger, C.B. Hall, Ed Bove, Diane Bargiel, Adam Adeane, and Alex Arpaia.

1) Adoption of the Agenda

Doug L. made a motion to approve the agenda. Mark T. seconded. No further discussion. Oral vote unanimous, motion carried.

Organizational Meeting

Doug L. made a motion to elect Jaime Lee as Chair of the Commission, and Mark T. as Vice Chair. Mary-Sue R. seconded. Doug L. made a motion to re-adopt the Rules of Procedure and Ethics Manual dated 2019, and to continue holding a regular meeting every third Wednesday of the month. Mary-Sue R. seconded. No further discussion. Oral vote unanimous, motion carried.

2) Approval of Minutes: February 9 (Special Meeting), February 16 (Regular Meeting), and February 23, 2022 (Special Meeting)

Mary-Sue R. made a motion to approve the minutes of February 9, 2022 (Special Meeting), February 16, 2022 (Regular Meeting), and February 23, 2022 (Special Meeting). Doug L. seconded. No further discussion. Oral vote unanimous, motion carried.

3) Unified Bylaw Update

Jaime L. described the bylaw update process to date and the upcoming Public Hearing, scheduled for March 23rd, 2022, at 6:00 PM in the Fire House.

The Commission received comments from the public. C.B. Hall spoke to a previous proposal to limit retail operations to 5,000 sq. ft. David Cooper inquired about the Commission's intentions within the Village Industrial zoning district. Neal V. responded to address Mr. Cooper's comments and previously submitted letter, taking umbrage to

the misstatements of fact and what he perceived to be bullying tactics. Neal V. clarified that he was not and never has served on Poultney's Development Review Board, and further took issue that, after the Selectboard's Public Hearing for Town Plan adoption, Mr. Cooper waited until Neal had left the room to bad mouth him to the Selectboard and the public in attendance. While Neal V. believes that he can fairly and impartially participate in Planning Commission proceedings—in past meetings as well as in the upcoming Public Hearing for Bylaw update—in order to prevent further bullying of Commission members, he would recuse himself from participation in Planning Commission actions on bylaw amendments affecting lands of Poultney Properties, LLC. Nic Stark commented on language within the proposed bylaw update.

4) Bylaw Modernization Project

Ed Bove described the Bylaw Modernization update process, and Jaime L. spoke to the various priorities that had been previously voiced by Commission members. Doug L. requested an understanding from Ed on other communities' experiences with this project.

5) Zoning Application Fees

Per a previous discussion, Jaime L. offered to look into other municipalities' zoning administration budgets, and the nature of their Zoning Administrator position.

6) Public Comments and Concerns

Addressed under Item #3. No further comments received.

7) Old Business

Mary-Sue R. provided an update on the EV Charger grant opportunity. Since the last meeting, she has contacted Mary Cohen, and Sarah Pelkey had contacted Mr. Fucci from the Autumn Leaves apartment complex.

Mary-Sue R. was still looking to track down example bylaw language from the Dark Skies Initiative for consideration in the next bylaw update.

8) New Business: N/A

9) Transact Any Other Lawful Business: N/A

10) Adjourn

Doug L. made a motion to adjourn Mary-Sue R. seconded. No further discussion. Oral vote unanimous, motion carried.