

Poultney Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 15, 2021 – 6:00 pm
Town Office
9 Main Street, Poultney, Vermont

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm. Members in attendance included Doug Langdon, Neal Vreeland, and Jaime Lee. Others in attendance included Paul Donaldson, Zoning Administrator, and Mary Sue Reed.

1) Adoption of the Agenda

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

2) Approval of Minutes: August 18, 2021

Doug L. made a motion to approve the minutes of August 18, 2021. Neal V. seconded. No further discussion. Oral vote unanimous, motion carried.

3) Municipal Planning Grant FY20

Commission members will be holding a special meeting on Wednesday, September 29th, 2021 at the Town Office to hear from Economic Development Coordinator Sarah Pelkey.

Doug L. has recently conversed with William DeForest, Assistant Professor of Marketing at Castleton State University, on improving the aesthetic of the Poultney Town Plan. Professor DeForest expressed some interest in assisting us with this task, and Doug L. continues efforts of defining the deliverable.

4) Unified Bylaw Update Recommendations

Commission members discussed utilizing a Planned Unit Development (PUD) mechanism in the Poultney Unified Bylaws to better address the recommendations presented by regenerative Land Holdings in partnership with Poultney's Economic Development Coordinator. This avenue may provide a simpler process than incorporating various new uses into the zoning language, and would allow for innovative flexibility to better meet the needs discussed to-date: To allow for the productive re-use of the Green Mountain College campus.

Jaime L. will discuss the PUD mechanism with Ed Bove of the RRPC and source regulatory language for the Commission's consideration. In addition, enacting PUD regulations would necessitate incorporating enabling language into the Town Plan; Jaime L. will gather those examples for the Commission's review at the September 29th special meeting.

5) Public Comments and Concerns

Mary Sue Reed addressed the Commission and noted that meeting minutes from 2017 through 2019 do not appear on the Town Website or Planning Website. Paul D. will look into the gap, though it was discussed that the Planning Commission historically has only met on an as needed basis, and rarely meets between projects (e.g. Town Plan or Bylaw updates) or petitions (e.g. Slate Quarry zoning amendments), which could explain the deficiency.

6) Old Business

- Russ H. has officially tendered his resignation, and members discussed sourcing a new candidate for the Commission.
- Neal V. pointed out that the Unified Bylaws were still in need of technical amendments to be approved by the Selectboard and adopted into the official Unified Bylaws.

7) New Business

The Commission discussed whether or not to utilize Zoom, and noted the difficulties inherent in setting up and monitoring this channel efficiently.

8) Transact Any Other Lawful Business

N/A

9) Adjourn

Doug L. made a motion to adjourn. Neal V. seconded. No further discussion. Oral vote unanimous, motion carried.

s/ Jaime Lee, Chair