

**Town of Granville Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)
Wednesday, September 7, 2022**

Present: Wil Brokhof, Tammi Beattie, Mike Reiderer, Cheryl Sargent

New Business

Wil nominated and unanimously elected Chair
Mike volunteered and elected Secretary

Wil offered the group some background information from the previous iteration of the Planning Commission and presented four grant opportunities that the Commission could consider taking on.

- 1) Funds available for a generator for town offices in public emergencies. Cheryl offered that the Town Hall already had a generator, but the firehouse does not and asked if that would be an appropriate place for a generator to be housed. The group agreed that if allowed under grant requirements it would be worthy to pursue and Wil offered to follow up.
- 2) Historic Preservation funding available for window repair in the upper floor of the Town Hall building. It was believed that the Selectboard was planning to discuss this at their upcoming meeting and the commission members are willing to offer assistance.
- 3) Federal ARPA Funding – the Planning Commission would look to the Selectboard for guidance, but would support efforts to gather information for potential ARPA projects
- 4) Municipal Planning grants are available for up to \$26,400 for a single municipality or \$42,000 for a collaboration between multiple municipalities. A 10% local match is required. The commission discussed the knotweed remediation efforts undertaken by the Towns of Warren and Waitsfield with UVM student interns and Wil provided an overview of the challenges created by uncontrolled knotweed including erosion and increased potential for flooding. A desire to collaborate with these towns to continue and increase knotweed remediation efforts was supported by all members. Wil will follow up with the Warren Conservation Commission and Town Administrator to gauge their interest in working together.

The commission continued to discuss various projects brought up at Selectboard meetings and through discussions with other Granville residents.

- Community Garden & playground space at Town Hall – talked about the need for increased awareness that the community garden is available to residents as well as potential uses for the space. The need for someone to maintain the garden was acknowledged as a challenge as well as the need to ensure the playground meets safety standards.

- Multi use paths – Recognized as a valuable community resource that is not well known in the community. Discussed wayfinding signage to mark locations and draw attention to paths and could help travelers locate appropriate camping locations in the National Forest. Cheryl reported that Mike Eramo, Norm Arsenault, and Butch ? created maps to show forest roads and town trails and she believed it was fully designed waiting for someone to take up the effort to print. She also noted that the National Forest Service had offered to create trailhead signage but that was never delivered.
- The group discussed a variety of ideas for events and activities that could take place at Town Hall and Cheryl mentioned a few activities that have occurred, including rental for private events. All agreed that there is a lot of potential but recognized that any activities all come with a significant time investment.

Wil drew attention to a previous discussion about the use of Calcium Chloride on town roads to keep down dust and some of the environmental impacts of this material. He has begun researching alternatives including hemp and soybean oils, but has not fully vetted cost or application processes. He will continue to research and pass along findings to the group and Selectboard.

Wil also pointed out his observation that the culvert across Route 100 south of the Town Hall does not seem to be functioning efficiently. Cheryl pointed out that this would be State of Vermont responsibility and we should look into VTrans list of road improvements to see if this project would be up for repair soon.

The group concluded with some general discussion about the functioning of the Planning Commission. Cheryl pointed out the PC mailbox and a binder of materials. The commission agreed that we could gain traction by addressing a few simpler projects initially and could serve as a facilitator for other ideas that residents might like to see happen in the community.

Mike offered to pursue an offer by the Two Rivers Ottaquechee Regional Planning Commission to provide basic training for Planning Commission members.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:55 by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted by Mike Reiderer