

TOWN OF STAMFORD
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
April 29, 2024
(UNAPPROVED)

Planning Commission: Sheila Lawrence, Acting Chair, Alden Finney, Lisa Gramlin, Peter Greenbush, Daniel Potvin, and David Saldo.
Kurt Gamari, ex-officio (non-voting) member.
Maura Hawkins was not present.

Visitors: Jedidiah Gramlin, Marta Miller, Sheila Pecor, Debra Righi, James Righi, Diane Saldo, and Lori Shepard.

Sheila Lawrence called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Jed Gramlin announced that he was video recording the meeting.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD

1. MOTION by Dave Saldo to appoint Sheila Lawrence as Chair. SECONDED by Aldy Finney. 3 in favor (Dave Saldo, Sheila Lawrence and Aldy Finney), 3 opposed (Peter Greenbush, Lisa Gramlin, and Daniel Potvin). Motion FAILED.

MOTION by Lisa Gramlin to appoint Kurt Gamari as Chair. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. Dave Saldo felt it was a conflict for Kurt Gamari to serve as Chair. Lisa Gramlin said she contacted the Vermont League of Cities & Towns who said he could be appointed as Chair. After further discussion, members called for a vote. 3 in favor (Peter Greenbush, Lisa Gramlin, and Dan Potvin), 3 opposed (Dave Saldo, Sheila Lawrence and Aldy Finney). Motion FAILED.

2. The nomination for vice chair was deferred until next meeting when a chair is elected.

3. MOTION by Dave Saldo to have Lori Shepard take the minutes of this meeting. SECONDED by Sheila Lawrence. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

4. MOTION to appoint Lisa Gramlin as Clerk. SECONDED by Sheila Lawrence. 5 in favor, 1 abstained (Dave Saldo). Motion APPROVED.

HEARING OF VISITORS

None.

MINUTES

The board deferred accepting the minutes of December 18, 2023 since there were not enough voting members in attendance who were at the last meeting.

DISCUSSION

Dave Saldo acknowledged that the board had been working on the Zoning By-Laws until the windmill situation became the focus of several meetings. Kurt Gamari would like to invite Janet Hurley from the Bennington County Regional Commission to upcoming meetings. Lisa Gramlin would like to begin updates to the Town Plan which expires in 2027 as it is a several year process. Kurt Gamari feels that there could be several grants available to homes or business within the village center district. Dan Potvin stated that the Town Plan is only an advisory document. Kurt Gamari encouraged people to read the Town Plan and the Zoning By-laws. Kurt Gamari stated that the Selectboard has not formalized any request for changes to the Zoning By-laws. The

process of updating and approving the By-laws was discussed and whether it was by town vote or Selectboard vote. Aldy Finney asked about the excavator in the Roaring Brook River. It is the state doing work to protect its infrastructure, the bridge. Dan Potvin feels people always used to take care of the river to protect their properties and they should be able to now. Dan Potvin feels the Planning Commission should be planning for the town's future sustainability. He would like the board to support sending a letter to residents suggesting they plant gardens or raise farm animals. He suggested buying water filters and manual pumps so people could still pump water from their wells if the power went out. The board debated and some members felt this was an Emergency Management topic.

The Planning Commission discussed the change in meeting time from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and the majority was in agreement with 7 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The Planning Commission acknowledged a letter from a property owner on Lesure Road with concerns that the overshadowing from a neighbor's proposed septic system installation will impact his land. Kurt Gamari was concerned with the impact future development of long narrow lots could have on our town and our roads. The board discussed the matter at length.
2. The Planning Commission received a permit application for a subdivision that was referred by the Zoning Administrator. The Planning Commission will schedule another meeting to discuss the approval of the permit.

MEETING

The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 7 p.m. Deb Burchard, the Zoning Administrator, will be invited to attend. Sheila Lawrence asked everyone to review the Zoning By-laws and write down their questions and comments for future discussion.

MOTION by Peter Greenbush to adjourn. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Lori Shepard on behalf of the Planning Commission for its review and approval.

Lisa Gramlin
Planning Commission Clerk

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