

TOWN OF STAMFORD
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
May 2, 2022
(UNAPPROVED)

Planning Commission: Debra Burchard, Chair, Carolyn Brooks, Kurt Gamari, Maura Hawkins, Sheila Lawrence, Daniel Potvin, and David Saldo.
Jenifer Hughs and Aaron Malachuk were not present.

Visitors: Anthony Bianco, Laurie Bianco, Rhonda Hewitt, Darryl Pecor, Beth Phelps, Debra Righi, James Righi, and Pamela Tworig.
Jim Sullivan, Bennington County Regional Commission.
Lori Shepard, Secretary.

Deb Burchard called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Pam Tworig stated that she was given a tour of the roads in town by Dave Tatro. She said there are serious issues with the planning and building of homes. She said the town needs to be looking at roads like Lesure Road and County Road because the increased road traffic from building is totally unsustainable. Dave Saldo noted that John Tatro obtained a lot of grants for blacktopping and road improvement and upgraded the classification of Jepson Road so it could be paved. Pam Tworig stated that Dave Tatro does a great job on our roads. Kurt Gamari asked about the process of rights-of-ways becoming roads. Pam Tworig feels the town needs to control development, where it benefits, and where it hurts the town. Dan Potvin argued against development regulations, stating that people should be able to do what they want with their property.
2. Darryl Pecor and Anthony Bianco showed the Planning Commission tickets that have been issued for riding ATV/UTVs on town roads. The Biancos own a camp and have always used ATVs and are very frustrated. Deb Burchard advised that the ATV matter is an issue before the Selectboard, not the Planning Commission.
3. Jim Righi talked about the new development on Lesure Road and the problems caused by having no setback requirements for rights-of-way or private roads.

BYLAW MODERNIZATION GRANT

Jim Sullivan provided a draft application for the village district designation and maps for the board's review. After a discussion with the state, he recommends reducing the size of the village district area to begin at the old Masonic Temple property (1092 Main Road) southerly to the St. John Bosco Church (818 Main Road), easterly to the river and along the easterly line of Houghton Cemetery and westerly to include the Stamford Fire Department and the back lines of the Main Road properties. The village designation could be a spring board for grant opportunities for renovations to public buildings and private historic homes. The state could accept, reject, or modify the application. If they reduce the size of the proposed village district, the town could choose whether to accept their modification or not. MOTION by Maura Hawkins to proceed with the application for a village district designation using the boundaries originally decided on by the Planning Commission. SECONDED by Carolyn Brooks. 6 in favor, 1 opposed (Sheila Lawrence). Motion APPROVED.

Jim Sullivan will finalize the paperwork and coordinate with Deb Burchard, the Chair, for her signature. The state review board will assign a hearing date which can be attended by members of the Planning Commission.

MINUTES

MOTION by Deb Burchard to accept the regular meeting minutes of March 7, 2022 as written.

SECONDED by Sheila Lawrence. 6 in favor, 1 abstained (Dan Potvin). Motion APPROVED.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Dave Saldo stated that he brought the conflict of interest documentation which was discussed at the last meeting but will present it at another time since it was late.

MOTION by Deb Burchard to adjourn. SECONDED by Sheila Lawrence. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Debra Burchard
Planning Commission Chair

DB/las