

TOWN OF STAMFORD
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
March 10, 2025
(UNAPPROVED)

Planning Commission: Peter Greenbush, Chair, Lisa Gramlin, Sheila Lawrence, Marta Miller, Daniel Potvin, David Saldo, and James Stimpson.

Alden Finney and David Tatro were not present.

Visitors: Jedidiah Gramlin, Debra Righi, James Righi, Diane Saldo, Lori Shepard, and Douglas Wright.

Peter Greenbush called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD:

1. MOTION by Lisa Gramlin to appoint Peter Greenbush as Chair. SECONDED by Marta Miller. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
2. MOTION by Peter Greenbush to appoint Jim Stimpson as Vice Chair. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
3. MOTION by Peter Greenbush to appoint Lisa Gramlin as Clerk. SECONDED BY Dan Potvin. Dave Saldo wondered if the board had reconsidered bringing back and paying Lori Shepard to be Clerk. Lori Shepard stated that there are no more grant funds. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

HEARING OF VISITORS: None.

MINUTES:

MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept the regular meeting minutes of February 10, 2025 as written. SECONDED by Marta Miller. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

DISCUSSION:

1. MEETING DECORUM/RULES

Lisa Gramlin informed the board that she has received more than one complaint about the cross-talking/yelling and inappropriate language at recent Planning Commission meetings. She passed out a guide sheet on Robert's Rules as Jim Stimpson had raised the question of rules at the last Selectboard meeting. Jim felt we could add/subtract to personalize the rules for ourselves. The group went over concerns and how to conduct ourselves respectfully going forward. Lori Shepard also heard complaints of foul language. Lisa also wanted the board to keep the audience in mind. MOTION by Jim Stimpson to accept the simplified version of Roberts Rules. SECONDED by Lisa Gramlin. Motion PASSES.

2. SIGN BYLAW PROGRESS UPDATES

Reminder that the Public Hearing for the changes to the Bylaws will be held on March 24th at 7pm. Pete Greenbush requested that Lori Shepard send out the notice via email. Pete will also post the notice on the Facebook page.

3. CURRENT BYLAWS REVIEW – NEXT STEPS

Board members were given a copy of suggested changes to the bylaw made by previous boards which Lori has kept track of and dated. These have been ongoing revisions but no decisions were made. Lisa Gramlin felt we should revisit these so as not to throw away the work that other boards have put in. Pete Greenbush felt that members of the Board should revisit both the Town Plan and the Zoning Bylaws and that we need to compile a list of topics we want to discuss, break it down over a course of meetings, and proceed in an orderly fashion. Jim Stimpson was reticent about changing anything. Pete thought there might be some things that may just need to be cleaned up rather than changed. He would like to see the all the boards working together. Jim clarified that email is the best form of communication with VLCT. It was agreed that if anyone feels they need to reach out to VLCT they should make the Chair aware. Jim Stimpson requested that we send an invitation to the Zoning Administrator to attend our next meeting. Marta wants us to keep in mind the changes that are coming from the state with Act 250 and increasing development as we try to preserve the rural flavor of our town.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lori Shepard mailed the letter from the Conservation Commission to BCRC, which the Planning Commission and Select Board signed onto, on 3/10/25. Lisa Gramlin has been appointed as a Commissioner to the BCRC which is holding its next meeting on March 20th in Bennington. She is planning on attending the meeting in person and will forward relevant information to all board members for anyone wanting to take part either in person or via Zoom.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dan Potvin wanted to make everyone aware that planning for the next Resiliency Fair is beginning this month. Anyone who is interested in joining the organizational group should contact Dan or Lisa.

MOTION by Jim Stimpson to adjourn. SECONDED by Lisa Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:09p.m.

Lisa Gramlin
Planning Commission Clerk