

TOWN OF STAMFORD
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
September 29, 2025
(UNAPPROVED)

Planning Commission: Peter Greenbush, Chair, Alden Finney, Lisa Gramlin, Stephanie Shelburne, James Stimpson. Natalie O'Neil (alternate).

Sheila Lawrence, Marta Miller, Dan Potvin, and Dave Tatro were not present.

Visitors: Debra Burchard, Debra Righi, and James Righi.

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

HEARING OF VISITORS: Debra Burchard asked when the Board would be working on Bylaw revisions. Lisa explained that currently the Board is working on a grant to update the Town Plan but will be tackling revisions next. Deb expressed that the biggest challenge she is facing right now is definitions and she would like to see time dedicated to this each meeting. Peter requested she submit a list of the most pressing issues to the Planning Commission ahead of time. Jim stated that have found working in small groups successful and asked for her to join in that process. Jim felt that people who have to enforce the bylaws are important to include in the process. Peter feels that, while the Town Plan rewrite will take approximately a year, in the meantime we can have discussions regarding the Bylaws and start tackling them a few at a time. Stephanie pointed out that we need to remember when we sit down to write bylaws we write them from the mission and vision for the town. She believes the state relies on towns having solid guidance for themselves which is their right and doesn't want to lose the town having the last voice, although there is a push for that to not be the case on the state level. Thus, writing the Town Plan first we will have better guidance for what we are governing with the Bylaws and how we want to grow, build, and leave behind with the Bylaws supporting that.

There was discussion of the pros and cons of portions of the Bylaws having grey areas. Deb reported that this is what happened with the last revision with being more hands-off and said it really caused problems.

Debra Burchard also informed the Board that the Select Board wants to change the documentation process for the permitting process and asked the Board to support her in this.

Peter welcomed Stephanie Shelburne as a new board member as well as Natalie O'Neil as the newly appointed alternate. We are working to define the role and responsibilities for the alternate. Peter will write to the Select Board for guidance.

MINUTES:

MOTION by Jim Stimpson to accept the regular meeting minutes of September 9, 2025 as written. SECONDED by Stephanie Shelburne. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

DISCUSSION:

Municipal Grant Application for the Town Plan

Callie Fishburn, who presented the workplan and budget to the Planning Commission last meeting, will be presenting to the Select Board on Thursday, October 2nd. Alden asked about the expenses being lowered in the BCRC budget. Lisa pointed out that Ms. Fishburn did cut some of the outreach expenses in the budget which lowered the overall cost. MOTION by Lisa Gramlin to recommend the BCRC workplan as proposed to the Select Board. SECONDED by Stephanie Shelburne. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

Jim Stimpson has concerns because the last Town Plan revision seemed to largely be “cut and paste”. The Board discussed this at length, determining that ultimately the language was up to us and the work we put in. Pete felt we can develop a relationship to work side-by-side with the BCRC giving our opinions on things we see fit as it is being written. It was agreed that the Town Plan and the Bylaws should mirror each other. It is going to be a lot of work and this is why we are starting now.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lisa has reached out to Alison Spasyk, who made a presentation about the Flood Safety Act (Act 121) at the last BCRC meeting, and asked her to come present to the Planning Commission at our November meeting.

MOTION by Peter Greenbush to adjourn. SECONDED by Lisa Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 6:50p.m.

Lisa Gramlin
Planning Commission Clerk