

**TOWN OF STAMFORD**  
**PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING**  
**February 10, 2020**  
**(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Planning Commission: Aaron Malachuk, Chair, Debra Burchard, Helen Fields, Daniel J. Potvin, Kurt Gamari, Jenifer Hughs, and Annemarie Potvin, Alternate.  
John Dupras, Sheila Lawrence and David Saldo were not present.  
Visitors: James Sullivan, Bennington County Regional Commission.  
James Stimpson, Administrative Officer.  
Lori Shepard, Secretary.

Aaron Malachuk called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the pledge of allegiance.

**RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

At the last meeting Jim Stimpson asked the Planning Commission to recommend him for another three year term as Administrative Officer. Helen Fields said she had no problem making the recommendation but would like to implement a system where the board could discuss what he had done throughout the year or if he had any problems. Then the board would be in a better position to make the recommendation. Jim Stimpson was in agreement. Helen Fields stated that she would like the meeting minutes to state when terms are renewing and would like to have a process set up to meet with the Administrative Officer at the end of each year.

MOTION by Aaron Malachuk to approve the letter to the Selectboard recommending that Jim Stimpson be reappointed as Administrative Officer. SECONDED by Helen Fields. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

**SUPPORT OF RESIDENCE IN FOREST ZONE ON CLASS 4 ROAD**

A potential buyer of property on County Road which is located on the Class 4 section and in the forest zone attended the last Planning Commission meeting. He would like to build a year-round residence. He attended the last Selectboard meeting to request permission to plow the Class 4 section of County Road. Kurt Gamari noted that the road classification is the only thing keeping that area from being developed. The Planning Commission signed the letter to the Selectboard giving its support to allow a full time residence on property located in the forest zone and on the Class 4 section of County Road.

**PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS**

1. The Selectboard accepted Stephen Bechtel's resignation and appointed Debra Burchard to complete his term.
2. The Selectboard accepted Steven Denault's resignation and appointed John Dupras to fill his term.
3. Annemarie Potvin submitted a letter of interest to the Selectboard. She was appointed as alternate and will be a non-voting member unless the Planning Commission is unable to make a quorum, at which point she can act as a voting member.
4. Aaron Malachuk recommended that the Planning Commission follow the guidelines which were set at last year's reorganizational meeting and submit a letter to the Selectboard asking that David Saldo's appointment be revoked. He has not attended a meeting in a long time. Although he did respond to the board's August 2019 letter indicating there were extenuating circumstances surrounding his absences, the missed meetings have continued and the board has not received any response from their last letter dated January 29, 2020.

MOTION by Helen Fields to request that he be removed from the Planning Commission in accordance with the rules which were set previously. SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

## MINUTES

1. Helen Fields noted a typo in the motion to recommend that Jim Stimpson's appointment as Administrative Officer be renewed for another three year term. She also felt the last comment in that section served no purpose. The topic was discussed and the vote was made and she felt the statement should be removed. The board decided to leave the minutes as is since the comment was made.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept the regular meeting minutes of January 27, 2020 as written.

SECONDED by Aaron Malachuk. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. Aaron Malachuk stated that he received some feedback from a resident concerning the discussion that Consolidated Communications could potentially provide fiber optic high speed internet in town. Aaron Malachuk responded to the resident and suggested they could be part of the internet research committee the Selectboard is forming.

## EMERGENCY PREPARDNESS

Dan Potvin stated that the Selectboard will send his letter to all town residents concerning the importance of being prepared for emergencies. Helen Fields felt letters generated by the town should not bring religion into it. Dan Potvin felt planting gardens is important to become more self-reliant. Jim Sullivan agreed that most towns have an emergency management plan that covers a variety of emergencies but that food sufficiency is underrepresented in the planning field. Dan Potvin feels planning for food security could be accomplished by promoting the gardening of a few large 3-4 acre parcels in town, numerous personal gardens and an area of common gardens where residents can have a designated square to plant and take care of. Volunteers will be needed to help with the town gardens. In England they have 20' x 30' allotments and 70 allotments can fit in one acre. If someone in town wanted to lease their land or allow this to be done, the town could start some community gardens. Helen Fields stated that the Seed Savers has been encouraging home gardens and several people started a garden for the first time last year. She said the Seed Savers is a lot of work and she is asking for several committed volunteers to keep it going this year. Helen Fields is working with Jim Stimpson for a grant to obtain greenhouses and said there is funding available if anyone else is interested in applying with them. Jim Stimpson as Emergency Management Coordinator said this is the kind of planning that they should be doing in Emergency Management and he would like to have Dan Potvin and Helen Fields involved. Jim Sullivan mentioned an event scheduled at Bennington College on regenerative agriculture coming this April.

## DISCUSSION OF ZONING BY-LAWS

Jim Sullivan provided the answers to several questions posed after the last meeting. The board felt signs should only be illuminated by external sources, kept the acreage amount in the residential and rural zones for permitted and conditional uses at two acres, increased the maximum building size in relation to the lot size to 30% in the residential and rural districts and revised the setbacks in all districts.

MOTION by Aaron Malachuk to adjourn. SECONDED by Helen Fields. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 24, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Aaron Malachuk  
Planning Commission Chair

AM/las