

Hardwick Planning Commission
September 12, 2017
Hardwick Memorial Building
Minutes

HPC Members Present: Dave Gross, Chair; Ken Davis; Diane Grenkow; Jim Lewis; and Shawn Ainsworth
HPC members Absent: Cynthia Grant and Joyce Mandeville

Also Present: Kristen Leahy, Hardwick Zoning Administrator (ZA)

Chair Gross opened the meeting at 6:33 pm.

Agenda was approved as published.

Diane Grenkow moved to approve the August 8, 2017 minutes for the Planning Commission public hearing on the proposed Hardwick Unified Development Bylaw update as written. Shawn Ainsworth provided the second. All members were in favor. Ken Davis moved to approve the August 8, 2017 minutes for the Planning Commission meeting as written, Jim Lewis seconded. All members were in favor.

Kristen Leahy reported that the Select Board will hold the public hearing for the proposed zoning bylaw changes immediately preceding their meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 6 p.m. The Select Board may issue a decision at the same meeting. Planning Commission members are welcome to attend.

The draft version of Hardwick's Hazard Mitigation Plan is being completed by a consultant hired by the original grant. Paul Luciano hopes to finalize the Mitigation Plan in the next two months. An outreach survey was produced and forwarded to the Hardwick community. HPC members were forwarded copies of the survey and invited to respond.

The Hunger Council of the Northeast Kingdom has requested input from Planning Commission members. Their meeting will be held on Friday, September 20 at 10 am in Barton. Dave Gross will endeavor to attend.

Discussion turned to the Municipal Plan. Dave Gross suggested that the commission have a target date of draft completion by March 2019 to allow for the various public hearings and posting dates which accompany the adoption of a new municipal plan. Commission members agreed with this proposed time frame.

Multiple town plans from other Vermont towns were reviewed by Commission members (Ferrisburgh, Hubbarton, Bolton). The preliminary assessment was that the Hubbarton Town Plan was easy to read and to comprehend. A similar approach (expanded to encompass Hardwick's needs) would be beneficial.

The Commission will be utilizing the steps discussed in "Making Plans Matter." Step 1 – Assessment; Step 2 – Vision; Step 3 – Goals and Objectives; and Step 4-5 – Map and Identify Priorities. The Assessment stage will commence next month. Most of the data already exists in the 2014 Town Plan and in the Community Visit overview. Kristen will distill the data and forward to Commission members next week. Members are asked to review and make notation of any data sets which should be updated and/or expanded. The Vision step – engaging the community – will require creative approaches. The Commission members were asked to start considering ways to solicit information from the Hardwick community.

The Commission also agreed to explore the possibility of seeking a Municipal Planning Grant for maps and visual aids in the Town Plan. Due to time constraints (October 2, 2017 deadline), the Commission expedited the approval of the possibility. Jim Lewis made a motion for the Planning Commission of the Town of Hardwick to apply for a 2018 Municipal Planning Grant. Ken Davis seconded the motion. All were in favor. Kristen will forward a draft of the proposal to the commission prior to submittal.

Dave Gross made a motion to deliver official recognition of Ken Davis and his celebration of the day of his birth. Shawn Ainsworth seconded the motion. All were in favor. An appropriate song of celebration was sung.

The next HPC meeting will be on October 10, 2017.

The motion to adjourn was made by Shawn Ainsworth and seconded by Diane Grenkow. All were in favor.

Board adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Kristen Leahy, ZA