

Hardwick Planning Commission
June 12, 2018
Hardwick Memorial Building
Minutes

HPC Members Present: Dave Gross, Chair; Jim Lewis; Joyce Mandeville, and Diane Grenkow

HPC members Absent: Shawn Ainsworth; Ken Davis; and Cynthia Grant

Also Present: Kristen Leahy, Hardwick Zoning Administrator (ZA), Eric Remick, Chair of the Hardwick Select Board.

Chair Gross opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Jim Lewis made the motion to approve the agenda with an addition of a presentation by Eric Remick. Joyce Mandeville seconded. All members were in favor.

Diane Grenkow moved to approve the May 8, 2018 minutes for the Planning Commission meeting. Jim Lewis seconded. All members were in favor.

Regarding the community outreach for the Municipal plan, answers were tabulated and sent to board members. Identified trends included a focus on outside endeavors (River/Trails/Rail Trail); on the downtown with its dual purpose of servicing residents and attracting visitors; on the Jeudevine Library restoration; and on linking the Rail Trail with the Downtown and with the rest of Vermont. Also noted was the lack of commentary about the schools – both as a positive or as a negative. A walkability study of the Downtown was suggested by Dave Gross as a positive future approach for the Selectboard.

Future steps will be to forward the results and the comments to the Select Board, the Jeudevine Library, the Center for an Agricultural Economy, the Trails committee and the Recreation Committee. Front Porch Forum posts will be issued and a press release will be sent to the Hardwick Gazette.

At the next meeting, the board will work on the overlay of the trends with the 2014 Town Plan framework.

Eric Remick presented the latest information regarding the Rail Trail development. At the Town House/Town Garage area, a new parking area will be installed. This will mark the beginning of the next section from Hardwick to Wright Farm Road. Approximately 1.5 miles will need to be brought up to VASA specifications. Only one bridge is included in that segment. Money will be utilized from a previous Federal allocation and possibly from VTrans. This segment will have distributed access – Town House, Atkins Field, and the Yellow Barn. A possible connection to Atkins Field may be a component of this section. The additional focus will be the four miles from Hardwick to East Hardwick. This has 2 bridges which will need to be re-decked. This work may be able to utilize NBRC grant monies. Other funding options are being explored at this time. The work may be completed by 2019/20 if all funds are received.

The Rail Trail work will dovetail with (and pass by) the Yellow Barn project which currently envisions a 28,000 sf structure and a retrofit of the existing Yellow Barn. Jasper Hill has agreed to be the anchor tenant of the proposal. The development would provide local employment, additional space for the producers at the Food Venture Center, and a tourism destination location.

A possible additional industrial park may be established at the former Patton property. Feasibility of the idea is currently being reviewed.

The next HPC meeting will be on July 10, 2018.

The motion to adjourn was made by Joyce Mandeville and seconded by Jim Lewis. All were in favor.

Board adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Kristen Leahy, ZA