

Hardwick Planning Commission  
(Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Task Force)  
November 10, 2020  
Via Zoom  
Minutes

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

Also Present: Kristen Leahy, Hardwick Zoning Administrator (ZA); Shari Cornish, Select Board Member.

Absent: Ken Davis, Michael Haveson

Chair Dave Gross opened the meeting at 6:33 pm.

Jim Lewis moved to approve the agenda as written. Joyce Mandeville seconded. All members were in favor.

Joyce Mandeville moved to approve the October 13, 2020 meeting minutes as written. Jim Lewis seconded. All members were in favor.

The October 15, 2020 letter from Chair Dave Gross to the Select Board was reviewed and applauded by the Commission members. Select Board member Shari Cornish felt that the letter was well received. Shari anticipated that the removal of the parking in close proximity to the crosswalks would be deferred until the spring repainting season.

It was noted that the parking spot near the Post Office had been removed by the placement of a large barrel. The barrel has subsequently been shifted (by a vehicle?) and has not been returned to the parking spot. As a result, the spot continues to be utilized for parking. The pair of flashing signs has been reunited in one location – near the Clip Joint/Laundry crosswalk.

Extensive discussion ensued regarding the possibility of a truck delivery spot. The Peace Park location has been removed from consideration due to the need for “green space” in the downtown area (and the floodway location of the park). A possible UPS size delivery spot may be feasible in the “Clip Joint” parking area. Dave will review further. A conversation with the Buffalo Mountain Co-op General Manager will occur (Shari) to ascertain their current/future plans for delivery (cones, saw horses, etc).

The Hardwick Select Board received a petition from residents in the Glenside Avenue/Route 15/Mill Street area. The petition requests the Select Board to investigate the possibility of adding a traffic light to that intersection. The Town Manager’s office will be working with the State and NVDA to evaluate the request. This may influence the PC’s Phase II planning regarding pedestrian and traffic safety on Mill Street.

There was a question about the status of the flashing 25 mph hour sign which was recommended for the Mill Street section of Hardwick. Kristen will inquire and report back.

The Zoning office has received three requests to review the zoning district on Route 15 near the Wolcott border. Currently, this section is in the Rural Residential zone but has traditionally been the location of commercial entities. Owners are seeking to utilize the locations in a manner that is more in keeping with the Highway Mixed Use. The Planning Commission authorized Kristen to review the feasibility and report back to the Commission.

The Commission will also need to update the Accessory Dwelling Unit language in the Zoning Bylaws. The State of Vermont now requires ADUs to have a 900 sf maximum rather than the previous 800sf maximum. Kristen recommended that the Commission wait for her review on the zoning district inquiry and possibly make both changes at the same time.

Agenda items for the December meeting should include a discussion about Paul Fixx's Town Plan concerns and the language in the Town Plan regarding the AT&T tower proposal on Buffalo Mountain.

Discussions are ongoing regarding a new date to complete the Community Walk Audit which was originally scheduled for November 9. The Commission will focus on either Hardwick or East Hardwick depending on the response from local residents.

Joyce Mandeville moved to close the meeting at 7:37. Jim Lewis seconded. All members were in favor.

The next HPC meeting will be on December 8, 2020 by Zoom.

~ Respectfully submitted, Kristen Leahy, ZA