

Hardwick Planning Commission
December 14, 2021
Via Zoom with Physical Location at the Memorial Building
Minutes

HPC Members Present: Joyce Mandeville; Ken Davis; Michael Haveson; Shari Cornish; and Dave Gross, Chair

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

Absent: Jim Lewis

Chair Dave Gross opened the meeting at 6:33 pm. Ken Davis moved to approve the agenda. Shari Cornish seconded. All members were in favor. Shari Cornish moved to approve the November 9, 2021 meeting minutes. Ken Davis seconded. All members were in favor.

The Mill Street and Main Street walk audits were submitted to the Select Board at their November 18, 2021 meeting. The Planning Commission requested permission to seek consultants and/or planning grants for updating and improving the walkability of the three sections in town. The Select Board granted permission to solicit information. Three companies were contacted – DuBois & King Inc; Lamoureux and Dickinson; and Wall Consultant Group. Currently, the HPC is awaiting responses from the engineering firms. Lamoureux and Dickinson and Wall Consultant Group responded on the same day and requested further information. Kristen will continue to communicate with the three companies after her medical leave.

Shari Cornish reported that the Department of Health has grants to support walkability and cross walks. This particular grant funding does not require a match and could be utilized for \$10,000+

The Church and Maple Streets sidewalk improvement project has been reviewed by the State of Vermont and will begin in 2022.

The Planning Commission will be checking on the status of the speed hump concept on West Church Street. This would be a conversation with David Upson and the Select Board. No official plans have been announced.

The Planning Commission discussed the Zoning Administrator's salary. Shari Cornish made a motion to write a letter to the Select Board from the Hardwick Planning Commission in support of a salary change for the Zoning Administrator. Ken Davis seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

The Planning Commission reviewed a proposal to extend the Highway Mixed Use zoning district from Wolcott Street along the historical commercial section that covered Atkins Field and the sawmill that is currently owned by Ken Davis. Both parcels were components of the granite industry within the town and have continued to function in a manner that is consistent with the Highway Mixed Use district. Both parcels, however, are currently listed as being located with the Village Neighborhood district. The HPC gave the Zoning Administrator permission to contact the neighbors and the owners about the potential of changing lot 3 and 62 to Highway Mixed Use.

The Town of Hardwick is creating a task force to examine the issue of cannabis retail in the town. Dave Gross will be participating with the task force. There will be a town-wide vote in March and if the Town votes to allow cannabis retail, there will need to be zoning changes made to the Hardwick Unified Development Bylaws.

New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T has filed a petition to receive a Certificate of Public Good for installation of a wireless telecommunications facility on an existing tower on Hopkins Hill. The Public Utility Commission has extended the ending date for public comments to February 1, 2022.

The next HPC meeting will be conducted by Zoom with a physical location of the third floor of the Memorial Building. The date will be December 14, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

Joyce Mandeville moved to close the meeting at 7:30 pm. Ken Davis seconded. All members were in favor.

The next HPC meeting will be by Zoom on January 11, 2022.

~ Respectfully submitted, Kristen Leahy, ZA