

Hardwick Planning Commission
November 9, 2021
Via Zoom with Physical Location at the Memorial Building
Minutes

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

Also Present: Kristen Leahy, Hardwick Zoning Administrator (ZA) and David Upson, Jr.; Hardwick Town Manager.

Absent: None

Chair Dave Gross opened the meeting at 6:29 pm. Ken Davis moved to approve the agenda. Joyce Mandeville seconded. All members were in favor. Ken Davis moved to approve the October 12, 2021 meeting minutes. Joyce Mandeville seconded. All members were in favor.

Newly hired Hardwick Town Manager, David (“Opie”) Upson, was introduced to the Commission. David recently spent 9 years serving as a Vermont State Trooper and previously worked in the municipal wastewater treatment field. He grew up in Hardwick and attended Hardwick schools and he is raising his family in the town. David reviewed his priorities including the official start of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and the creation of housing for everyone in Hardwick. He is willing to assist the Planning Commission and “take on any tasks.” Planning Commission members identified three current priorities – pedestrian and traffic safety; broadband coverage/installation for the entire community; and a new industrial park (near Route 14).

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 December 1, 2021. The HPC had previously subscribed to this ePUC case – 21-3784-PET. Commission members reviewed a letter of support which cited the Hardwick Municipal Plan’s guidance. Ken Davis made a motion to accept the draft letter as written. Jim Lewis seconded. All members were in favor.

The draft of the Mill Street and Main Street walk audits were reviewed by the Planning Commission. A few minor changes were suggested and Kristen will make adjustments prior to the November 18, 2021 meeting with the Select Board. The version of the audits with color photographs will be made available to Select Board members. The Planning Commission will be presenting the information and requesting permission to seek consultants and/or planning grants for updating and improving the walkability of the three sections in town. *(Kristen will communicate with VLCT about potential consultants who may be available for this type of work).*

Shari relayed information regarding the Select Board’s pursuit of changes to the Hardwick Charter. The second public hearing will be held on November 18, 2021.

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 December 14, 2021.

~ Respectfully submitted, Kristen Leahy, ZA