

Hardwick Planning Commission
June 11, 2024
Hybrid – In Person and Via Zoom
Minutes

HPC Members Present: Joyce Mandeville; Shari Cornish; Jim Lewis; Larry Fliegelman; Michael Haveson (Zoom); Bud Stevens (1st Alternate); Kole (2nd Alternate) and Dave Gross, Chair

Also Present: Kristen Leahy, Hardwick Zoning Administrator; Heather Carrington; and Tracy Martin, Community Development Coordinator (Zoom)

Absent: Ken Davis (Bud Stevens assumes his vote).

Chair Dave Gross opened the meeting at 7:32 pm. Jim Lewis moved to approve the agenda as written. Joyce Mandeville seconded. All members were in favor. Shari Cornish moved to approve the May 14, 2024 meeting minutes. Joyce Mandeville seconded. All members were in favor.

Updates from the Community Development Coordinator – Tracy Martin

Tracy Martin joined the meeting by Zoom.

The Transportation Alternatives Grant was recently received by the Town of Hardwick. This grant will provide funds for a scoping study for the Mill Street and Main Street area in downtown Hardwick. The Town will be working with a transportation planner to review safety for pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles. After the study is complete, we will have the opportunity to pursue a Design and Construction grant for the same targeted area of town.

On Tuesday, June 25, 2024, there will a substantially sized conference in Hardwick, at the Hardwick Town House. Vermont Community Development Association is holding their annual spring conference. Approximately 150 people will be in Hardwick to hear how municipalities can drive local economic development. HPC members are welcome to register and attend.

The Better Connections grant to create a village plan in East Hardwick is “chugging along.” The planners are reviewing the existing conditions in East Hardwick – including storm water management. The committee has been generating a survey card to solicit input from residents of East Hardwick.

Tracy submitted a newly created tree planting grant to the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission. This grant is being pursued in conjunction with the Downtown Partnership, the Hardwick Conservation Commission and Hardwick’s Tree Warden. The grant would provide funds for Hardwick to plant 25 trees in the Downtown area. **The breaking news of the meeting:** The grant was awarded to the Town of Hardwick. 25-30 trees will contribute to the canopy of Hardwick’s downtown.

Motion: N/A

Updates from the Bylaw Modernization Consultant – Heather Carrington

Following the 6:30 public hearing for the update to the Hardwick Unified Development Bylaws, the Planning Commission was ready to forward their draft to the Select Board.

Motion: To forward the draft version of the amended and updated Hardwick Unified Development Bylaws to the Hardwick Select Board for their review, consideration and continuation of the Bylaw Modernization process.

Shari Cornish made the motion and Joyce Mandeville seconded. All members were in favor.

A public hearing will need to be held by the Select Board. This meeting will be in August. (*ed. The hearing date that has been requested is September 5, 2024 – this will allow residents to receive the information in their tax bills*). In late July to early August, the zoning bylaw update information will be included in the tax bills.

A second letter was sent to the owners of the impacted properties to provide additional information about the Planning Commission’s public hearing.

Phases I and II:

N/A

Motion: N/A

Short Term Rentals:

N/A

Motion: N/A

Flood Hazard Area Overlay Bylaw Update:

N/A

Motion: N/A.

Hardwick Ecological Inventory:

N/A

Updates from Commission Members or the Zoning Administrator:

Tracy Martin and Shari Cornish will be attending the Preservation Trust of Vermont’s retreat, which will present information about public and private partnerships. “Community Revitalization through Non-profit Ownership.”

Tonight’s meeting was Joyce Mandeville’s last official meeting. She is retiring after 9+ years on the Commission. Our sincere gratitude for her time, energy, and wit. She will be sincerely missed.

The next meeting for the HPC will have a draft copy of the AARP review of South Main Street, a draft copy of the existing conditions parking plan on South Main Street, and more information about River Corridors.

Motion: N/A

Motion: To conclude the Hardwick Planning Commission Meeting.

Joyce Mandeville made the motion and Shari Cornish seconded. All members were in favor.

The meeting ended at 8:10 pm.

The next HPC meeting will be at 6:30 pm on July 9 on the 3rd Floor of the Memorial Building and via Zoom. This meeting will be recorded to comply with the new State Rules.

~ Respectfully submitted, Kristen Leahy, ZA