

Hardwick Planning Commission
July 9, 2024
Hybrid – In Person and Via Zoom
Minutes

HPC Members Present: Shari Cornish; Jim Lewis; Larry Fliegelman; Michael Haveson (Zoom); Ken Davis; and Dave Gross, Chair

Also Present: Kristen Leahy, Hardwick Zoning Administrator; and Tracy Martin, Community Development Coordinator

Absent: Bud Stevens and Kole

Chair Dave Gross opened the meeting at 6:30 pm. Ken Davis moved to approve the agenda as written. Jim Lewis seconded. All members were in favor. Shari Cornish moved to approve the June 11, 2024 Public Hearing minutes for the Zoning Bylaw update and amendment. All members were in favor. Larry Fliegelman seconded. Shari Cornish moved to approve the June 11, 2024 meeting minutes as written. Larry Fliegelman seconded. All members were in favor.

Updates from the Community Development Coordinator – Tracy Martin

The Transportation Alternatives Grant agreement was recently received by the Town of Hardwick. The Town is working on the RFP for the scoping study on Mill Street and Main Street. Earlier studies will be utilized and the focus will be on parking, access, pedestrian and bike safety.

The LVRT – downtown loop was identified previously and will satisfy the Pedestrian Bridge grant money re-allocation from USDA. An increase in bicycle traffic has already been noted. The Pedestrian Bridge project is in motion and (hopefully) the bridge will be installed before the end of the year. The HPC is asked to re-submit their recommendations for early implementation of the loop. The North Main Street will be re-paved and ground down 2 inches so the recommendations that relate to the pavement (sharrows, bike lanes, removal of the centerline) are not feasible at this time. The suggestion was made that temporary signs be created and installed to effect change quickly. A discussion ensued as to what the signs would convey for messages. “Downtown with an arrow,” “Bike Rack with an arrow,” “P”, “Trailhead”, “Depot”, “Pause Park,” “Health Center.” Additional signage is in discussion with the State of Vermont but temporary “yard signs” may be the best approach this summer.

Motion: To amend the original Loop Proposal recommendations to reflect current paving and construction conditions.

Larry Fliegelman made the motion and Shari Cornish seconded. All members were in favor.

Tracy Martin and Kristen Leahy will work together to craft an appropriate amendment and forward the information to the Select Board at the July 18, 2024 meeting. **(done)**

Updates from the Bylaw Modernization Consultant – Heather Carrington

None.

Motion: N/A

AARP Walkability Studies:

The Planning Commission reviewed the South Main Street area in later May 2024. The information and pictures (thank you Shari!) were distilled into a draft version of an audit. The HPC reviewed the proposed audit and Dave Gross made the suggestion that labels be included for each of the pictures. Kristen will make this change.

Motion: To approve the South Main Street AARP Walkability Study with the requested modifications (labels on pictures).

Shari Cornish made the motion and Larry Fliegelman seconded. All members were in favor.

The audit will be conveyed to the Select Board on August 1, 2024 so that the suggested crosswalk might be implemented prior to the start of the school year.

Lori Ferland contacted the Zoning Office and suggested that an AARP Walkability Study be conducted on Wolcott Street. The HPC will set a date at their August meeting for a September date.

Long Term Community Recovery Plan:

The State of Vermont and FEMA are recommending that the Town of Hardwick embark on the creation of a Long Term Community Recovery plan. The plan would become an addendum to the Hardwick Municipal plan. Portions of the plan have already been created by the work of a sub-group in Neighbor to Neighbor and by the Town staff. There are sections and aspects of the process that align with the Planning Commission's mandates. Kristen requested that the Planning Commission participate in this process and help facilitate the creation of the end result. General consensus agreed with this request.

Motion: N/A

Phases I and II:

N/A

Motion: N/A

Short Term Rentals:

N/A

Motion: N/A

Hardwick Ecological Inventory:

N/A

Updates from Commission Members or the Zoning Administrator:

Porta-potties will be installed at the LVRT trailheads this summer.

Motion: N/A

Motion: To conclude the Hardwick Planning Commission Meeting.

Ken Davis made the motion and Jim Lewis seconded. All members were in favor.

The meeting ended at 7:50 pm.

The next HPC meeting will be at 6:30 pm on August 13, 2024 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