

Hardwick Planning Commission
February 10, 2026
Hybrid – In-Person and Zoom options - Minutes

HPC Members Present: Dave Gross, Chair; Larry Fliegelman; Jim Lewis; Kole; Bud Stevens; Gillian D’Acierno; and Ken Davis

HPC Members Absent: Michael Haveson (Gillian D’Acierno assumes his seat)

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

Chair Dave Gross opened the meeting at 6:30 pm. Ken Davis moved to approve the agenda. Larry Fliegelman seconded. All members were in favor. Ken Davis moved to approve the draft January 13, 2026 minutes as written. Larry Fliegelman seconded. All members were in favor.

Updates from the Community Development Coordinator – *Tracy Martin*

Transportation Alternatives – The Final Concepts Presentation for the Mill Street and Main Street Scoping Study was held on January 7 at 5:30 pm. Over 80 people participated in the information gathering at the first two meetings and through separate communication (emails and a letter from the Sumner Street neighborhood). This proposal was presented as a phased approach that will consider funding sources and reasonable time frames for town staff. The final concept was presented to the Select Board on February 5, 2026. The Board accepted the process as complete and will review the final plan in the next month to determine whether to approve it.

Pedestrian Bridge – The existing bridge was demolished in the first week of February 2026. There is a temporary bridge in place for the construction crew to utilize. The next component will be the construction of the retaining wall (FEMA funded). Final bridge construction is expected to be completed by November 2026.

Essential Services Complex – On January 21, there was a presentation by VIA consultants regarding a proposal to house the Fire Dept., Town Garage, and Hardwick Rescue in one building to be constructed on Creamery Road. The audience appeared to be supportive. The entire project is currently estimated to cost \$14.8 million. A bond vote will be held in mid-Spring 2026.

The existing rescue building and garage would be demolished to accommodate this campus approach. The existing Salt Shed will remain and may be repurposed.

2027 Municipal Plan Update:

A community survey was reviewed and the final version is now ready for the community. Larry Fliegelman raised the question of incorporating the Town’s equity work in the survey. The Town Plan

update will include a section on the Equity Committee’s work (created with the Equity Committee). Consensus was that the shorter version would be preferable.

The survey will be available electronically and on paper. The survey will be open from now (as soon as finalized) until June 5, 2026. An outreach plan was tentatively developed:

Location	Timing	HPC member?	Notes:
Town Meeting	Early March	Yes – Kole, Larry, Jim	There will be a stack of paper copies available, a location for completed surveys, and a sign that says that HPC members are available for questions. Name TAGS?
Spring Fest	Memorial Day weekend	Yes, please!	Table?
Convenience Stores	Once the temps are warmer	Yes, please!	We have 4 locations to use.
Hazen Basketball games	Winter months	Yes, please!	Not certain how this works.
Library	Unknown	N/A	
Public Works Department	Winter	N/A	
Fire Department/Fire Auxiliary	Winter	N/A	
Civic Standard?	Winter	Yes, please!	
High School classes	Winter	N/A	
Rural Edge	Winter	N/A	Email request
Front Seat Coffee	Winter	Maybe?	
Downtown Partnership?	Winter	Yes, please!	Email and visits
Buffalo Mountain Coop	Winter	N/A	Email request – possible table outside in warmer weather
Senior Center	Winter/Spring	Yes, please!	
American Legion	Spring	Yes, please!	
East Hardwick N.O.	Winter/Spring	Dave Gross	Email. Other ideas?
Granite Street	Winter	N/A	Facebook

Neighbors			
Kiwanis	Winter	N/A	Audrey Grant
Village Restaurant	Winter	N/A	Lynn
Meals on Wheels?			
Other?			

There is a file on the Planning Commission page that has the Municipal Plan and all associated documents, including the community survey and each chapter as a separate entity. The file will be in the Agendas and Minutes for the HPC. [Planning Commission \(HPC\) – Hardwick, Vermont](#)

Updates from Commission Members:

Dave Gross requested feedback from the Hardwick Planning Commission on the possibility of writing a letter that would endorse Local Motion’s Safe Streets proposals in the Vermont Legislature.

Motion: To approve the preparation of a letter of support for Local Motion’s advocacy efforts on Safe Streets in the Vermont Legislature. The letter will be drafted by Dave Gross, Chair of the Hardwick Planning Commission, and shared with the Commission by email for review prior to finalization.

Gillian D’Acierno made the motion and Jim Lewis seconded.

Updates from the Zoning Administrator:

The Town of Hardwick has received its housing targets from the RPC. The targets are aspirational. Hardwick is included in the top 6 towns in the three counties. The HPC supported the idea of requesting additional assistance from the RPC to meet these goals. Updated language for Mobile Home Parks would be useful for the town.

Motion: To conclude the Hardwick Planning Commission Meeting.

Ken Davis made the motion and Bud Stevens seconded. All members were in favor.

The meeting ended at 7:55 pm.

The next HPC meeting will be at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, on the 3rd Floor of the Memorial Building. The ZA will be out from March 27 to April 24 for hip surgery.

~ Respectfully submitted, Kristen Leahy, ZA