

**Johnson Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes, Thursday June 9, 2015**

Present PC members: David Bergh, David Grozinsky, David Butler, Paul Warden, Brian Boyden, Phil Wilson

Guests: Melinda Scott (Lamoille County Planning Commission) Lea Kilvadyova (Community & Economic Development Coordinator)

Note: All votes are unanimous unless otherwise noted

David Butler called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Review of May 12, 2015 minutes

David Grozinsky moved and Phil Wilson seconded the motion to approve the May 12th minutes as amended. Paul and Brian abstained from voting; all others approved and the motion passed.

Changes/additions to the agenda

Lea asked to review the correspondence at the end of the meeting. David added discussions about sub-committees and river corridors.

Unified plan: Transportation draft

Lea reviewed changes to the Transportation draft and the Planning Commission accepted the changes. Additionally, two other edits were offered: 1) Clarify that class IV road only applies to the upper end of the road and 2) Add an implementation task to identify locations for public transit bus stops.

Unified plan: Public Services and Community Facilities

Lea provided an overview of the Public Services and Community Facilities document. The Planning Commission reviewed the document and providing the following feedback:

- Melinda Scott (Electricity paragraph): Include a statement of the condition of power lines
- David G. (Electricity): what do “water rights” mean?
- Kim (Electricity): It may be good to list all companies that provide electricity to Johnson residents.
- David Butler (Buildings): Include a description of the Historical Society’s property. Both the Library and the Historical Society properties differ from the other municipal buildings in that they receive private funding which should be mentioned in the plan.
- Kim: The plan should state that the location of the sewer plan in the floodplain/river corridor is a challenge. David Butler added that some of our other municipal buildings may be in the floodplain but the reason to single out the sewer plant is that damages to the sewer plant caused by flood waters could have consequences on the rivers downstream from the plant.
- Paul Warden: How much capacity does the sewer plant have available?
- David Butler: Is the sewer plant a secondary or tertiary facility?
- Add Cold Spring and the French Hill reservoir to the list of water supply sources. Lea said that the reservoir is no longer used as a public water source. David Butler mentioned that the French Hill reservoir could serve as a water source for the Fire Department.

- Kim expressed frustration about the impact of new legislative requirements - in this case the State law mandating recycling and composting – on municipal budgets. If the State is coming up with new requirements, it should provide funds to implement the law. Melinda mentioned that the Chittenden Solid Waste district has a grant program that funds purchases of recycling bins. Lamoille currently does not have such a grant program.
- Kim (Emergency Operations): The plan should mention where the public can access the Emergency Operations and Rapid Response Plans.
- Kim (Health Services): It would be good to mention the United Way in the segment talking about services provided by Vermont Community Action Council.
- David Bergh (Health Services): There may be changes to JSC’s health center system. David will provide a rewrite for this section.
- Brian Boyden, David Butler (Cemeteries): David and Brian will draft additional language pertaining to the Old Catholic Cemetery.
- Kim (Policies): Add a policy encouraging municipal uses of renewable energy sources
- David Butler and Bergh (Policies): Discussed adequacy of the policy statement about the pharmacy.
- Kim (Implementation Tasks): Add a task to identify funds for the implementation of the recycling/composting law.
- David Butler (Implementation Tasks): Add the following task: “Support development of new driveway standards which will meet emergency vehicle requirements for access.”
- Lea: Talk to the library and the Historical Society about their suggestions for policies and implementation tasks

Way-finding sign for LVRT and Old Mill Park

Lea and the Johnson Rail Trail Committee are proposing to place a way-finding sign along RT 15 that will direct people to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and the Old Mill Park. The sign will match the design of the existing sign placed near the Village Green. It will be a blue sign with a white/brown church steeple above. The Planning Commission needs to approve the sign before the Town submits an application to VTrans to place the sign within the RT 15 right of way. Brian suggested that the sign includes distances to the destinations. **David Grozinsky moved and David Bergh seconded the motion to support the placement of the wayfinding sign pointing to LVRT and the Old Mill Park on Main Street in Johnson. All voted in favor.**

The Planning Commission also discussed the placement of continuous signage and sharrow markings along Railroad Street all the way to the LVRT and the Old Mill Park. **Kim moved and David Bergh seconded the motion to support the placement of sharrows and continued signage leading to the Old Mill Park and the Rail Trail. All voted in favor.**

Upcoming summer schedule

In July, the Planning Commission will meet on either Monday, July 13th or Monday, July 20th. Skip Vallee is interested in meeting with the Commission. Lea will communicate with Skip about which Monday will work best. In September, the Planning Commission would like to invite an Agency of Natural Resources representative to discuss river corridors.

Paul Dreher expects to have the first full draft of the code available at the end of June. The Planning Commission may need to schedule a review of the document for either July or August.

As far as the work on the unified plan, David Butler and Lea would like to implement Brian's idea for splitting the review work into subcommittees. David G. suggested using Google docs as a platform for the review of the plan. Lea will follow up with the Planning Commission via email to structure the subcommittees.

Meeting with Skip Vallee

David Butler suggested that if the Maplefields project is built in line with the proposed form based code principles, the project will be more attractive and beautify an important gateway corner to the Village. He said that he drove through Newport and appreciated the Newport's two story building that includes professional office space on the upper floor. He said that Johnson also needs professional office space. Other design elements to consider would be to bring the building forward and place the parking at the back, incorporate green space between the building and the sidewalk, and adhere to the proposed glazing standards. David also thought that the Maplefields site would be a great place for a public transit bus stop. David Grozinsky added that he would like to see the site developed in harmony with the abutting Barbara White studios and the cemetery. David Butler mentioned that it may be good to ask Skip whether he is aware of the river corridor delineations.

Correspondence review

Lea said that there is a letter from JoAnn and Steve Benford expressing a concern about the impact of the river corridor delineation on their property. Another letter is from the Public Service Board regarding an application from Dennis and Sandra Bender for a net metered solar generation system.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Minutes taken by Lea Kilvadyova