

Johnson Planning Commission Meeting Draft Minutes

Johnson Municipal Building

Tuesday May 7th, 2018

Board Members Present: Phillip Wilson, David Butler, Kim Dunkley, Paul Warden. Charles Gallanter, Kim Cotnoir, Kyle Hill, Rob Rodriguez, Greg Tatro

Other visitors: Eric Nuse

1. David called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.
2. Paul motioned to accept the minutes for the February meeting as written. Kim D. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Eric passed out some information from the Mapping Vermont's Natural Heritage book and discussed the conservation commissions reserve fund. The conservation commission has begun to collect feedback on areas which should be priorities for conservation once the fund has sufficient monies to preserve parcels of land. Through a process known as community value mapping feedback can be gathered to identify areas of town which people value. Those results can be mapped or overlaid to the natural resources inventory which the conservation commission had completed to get a better idea of which place people value. Vermont Fish and Wildlife has volunteered to help facilitate the process if Johnson would like to participate. Some discussion was had on how the data would be used after it was collected, for town plan updates, conservation preservation, zoning etc. The commissions will work together this summer and fall to begin the process. Eric left the meeting at 7:30.
4. David informed the commission on some problems the town has had with encroachment on their right of ways on class 4 roads. The Vermont Clean Water Act is also increasing regulatory pressure to reduce sediment losses from these town roads, many of which are not highly used. By reducing the number of class 4 roads to simply the ones used by townspeople the liability of the town can be reduced going forward. Class 3 roads are maintained year round, class 4 roads are not maintained year round by the town but drainage and water crossings are the responsibility of the town and trails are no longer maintained in any capacity by the town however the right of way continues to exist for public use. David would like some to set some parameters for the commission to follow when deciding which roads to demote from class 4 to trails and which ones to throw up completely or dissolve the right of way. David left the meeting at 8:05. The categories that the planning commission are looking at are: Continue the road as a class 4 road, roads being demoted from class 4 to trails and class 4 roads to throw up or dissolve the right of way, and whether any class 4 roads should be promoted to class 3. After the planning commission submits their recommendations to the select board the commission would encourage them contact the affected landowners before any actions were taken. After much discussion the two broad rules proposed by the planning commission were the following: class 4 roads would be thrown up if there is no discernable public use and no residence on the

road. On class 4 roads with residence living on them the road would go from a class 4 to a trail after the last residence. At the next meeting the commission will review all class 4 roads in detail using a projector displaying the ANR Atlas, tax records and local knowledge to make individual recommendation for each of them to the Select Board. The commission will also review downgrading and upgrading other town road where appropriate.

5. Paul motioned to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:59 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday June 4th at the Johnson Municipal Building, 7:00 P.M.