

JOHNSON PLANNING COMMISSION

12 MAY 2021 Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Changes & Public Comment - Added (1) Next meeting in person? (2) Secretary Position. No PC.

Attendance – David Butler, Charles Gallanter, Rob Rodriguez, Kylie Hill, Paul Warden

Approval of 15 APR 2021 meeting minutes – DB moved, KH seconded, passed unanimously.

Mail - None

JPC Members and Terms – to be posted on Town website

	Name	Term (Years)	Expires
1	Paul Warden (Chair)	2	3/22
2	Rob Rodriguez (Vice-Chair)	2	3/22
3	Charles Gallanter	3	3/24
4	David Butler	3	3/23
5	Greg Tatro	3	3/23
6	Kim Cotnoir	3	3/22
7	Kylie Hill	3	3/23
8	Shane Spence	3	3/24
9	(vacant)		

Next meeting (Wed, 09 Jun 2021) – Hopefully in person. Charles reported the Town Hall will potentially be open to 12 people, which is adequate for most JPC meetings.

Secretary Position – No interested parties. Discussed has JPC funds to hire; decided not needed yet.

TOJ Email accounts – Agreed all members should have TOJ email. Use is voluntary, but recommended to protect members’ privacy in the event of a Open Meeting Law / FOIA request for emails. Paul to make request to Brian.

Priority List for 2021

1. JPC By-laws
2. Class 4 Roads
3. Sewer / Water Line Extension – (a) criteria/policy (b) suggested areas
4. Zoning? – Single Family Housing, Marijuana Sales, Railroad Street, other – not discussed.
5. Town Plan – David asked when the Town/Village Plan expires; Charles reported adopted in 2016, 8 year plan, so expires in 2024. General agreement it is a 2 year process to review, so start in 2022.

By-laws – Reviewed sample bylaws from Cambridge and Burlington. Rob appreciated the simplicity of the Cambridge bylaws; general agreement. Discussed adding a conflict of interest statement. Also adding annual election of JPC officers. Charles will look up statutes that we should reference; agreed to cite statute, not copy. Paul to draft for next meeting. David said JPC created bylaws when he was Vice

Chair and he may have a copy; he will look. Some discussion of process to adopt / approval; Charles looked up the statute (24 VSA 4323 – Planning Commission adopts own bylaws).

Class 4 Roads – Discussed redline version of Class 4 road policy from Selectboard. General agreement that too much of JPCs were removed. Discussed dedicated trust fund, need for a permit to plow, and ROW disputes. Strong feeling that Town should be responsible for legally establishing the ROW location. Discussed that it is JPC's role is to advise, so we should clearly indicate what we believe is best; the Selectboard can and will decide policy. David suggested tabling the policy discussion until he can review the current Town policy, the previous JPC recommendations and the redline version, side by side. Agreed.

Discussed list of Class 4 roads JPC had previously suggested converting partially or fully to trails. Rob indicated he heard feedback that portions of roads on state land should not be given up entirely. Perhaps converting to trail would be better so as to maintain Town ROW. David asked about the 6 categories the Town had asked us to grade the roads on (road condition, development, vehicular usage, recreational usage, access to unique features, and streams-forest blocks-natural communities. David said the "access" criteria is a difficult one for him if it is providing access to unique features on private property. Discussed various scenarios. Agreed to each visit the 21 roads and grade on the categories. First 4 categories will be numerical, 1-5, last 2 will be comments. Paul to develop spreadsheet for scoring. Revisit topic in July meeting – all scoring due to Paul by Sunday, 27 Jun 2021 so it can be tabulated.

Next meeting – Wed 09 Jun 2021, 7PM (zoom or in-person TBD).

Adjourn – DB moved, KH seconded. Passed unanimously.