

JOHNSON PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES

Emergency Meeting: 09 FEB 2022, 7:01PM EDT

Members (P=Present; A=Absent)

Charles Gallanter (P), David Butler (P), Greg Tatro (A), Kim Cotnoir (P, remote), Kyley Hill (P), Rob Rodriguez (P), Shayne Spence (P), Paul Warden (P)

Start: 7:05 PM

Topics:

Agenda Changes & Public Comment – PSW added LCPC Support update in the MDP section

Approval of 12 JAN 2022 minutes – Approved (Kyley moved, Charles seconded). All in favor except David and Shayne, who abstained as they were absent from the previous meeting).

Class IV roads - update on Selectboard meeting re Class IV road policy. SB received edited policy very favorably. Brian complemented the JPC. Some minor edits suggested, but “annual inspections”, no permit required for snow plowing, ROW dispute mechanism – all retained. Penalties may be removed if legally they can only be in an ordinance (did not appear to be any interest in changing the policy to an ordinance at this time). Likely final revision will be voted on at next SB meeting in 2 weeks. An outdated road list was in the SB minutes, but was not intended to be a topic of discussion; no action on that.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Updated – latest revision provided by Melanie Riddle, LCPC. Mistakenly not sent to JPC as part of the meeting packet, PSW forwarded following the meeting. Can discuss next meeting (Melanie can attend if needed / desired).

The Rural Energy Pilot Program (REPP) grant opportunity - Discussed at some length. Charles pointed out 20% matching funding required. David brought up the idea of funding EV charging stations in partnership with Maplefields and/or Jolly's – perhaps we could get some or all of the 20% from a private partner. Solar array? Shayne looked it up and found that it is USDA funded. General agreement that this grant opportunity is worth considering. Letter of intent due April 19, completed application due July 18. Need to explore with Brian – if we identify a grant as potentially worth pursuing, what is the process? Does the Town have access to a grant writer?

Municipal Development Plan

LCPC - PSW spoke to Seth Jensen, who stated that LCPC will definitely help with an initial consultation, will update facts and figures, maps, etc. as part of their general funding. He supported our intent to make the Municipal Plan “more actionable” and the concept of soliciting citizen input. He will check with Tasha Wallis regarding funding for LCPC to help with survey formulation, tallying responses, etc.

Review pages 2-5 of current Johnson MDP – not done.

Review other MDPs/ Discussed approach – discussed survey questions used by Mt Jackson VA in preparation of their revised Town Plan. David stated the greatest benefits of a Town Plan are (1) if an

issue is addressed it gives the Town a seat in Act 250 hearings and (2) when applying for grants, having previously identified and articulated the goal in the Town Plan scores points. David also pointed the difficulties faced last time, integrating the Town and Village plans; need to be certain that any statutory changes are fully addressed. Discussed survey mechanism, agreed combination of electronic and hard copy. Kim suggested a flyer in the News and Citizen. Shayne/Rob suggested hosting on the Town website or perhaps LCPC website. Shayne suggested other organizations that could be asked to help spread the word (Healthy Lamoille Valley, Lamoille Housing Partnership, Jenna's Promise). Also Johnson Works, Front Porch Forum, all Town and Village committees, etc. Some discussion of who should be surveyed, residents? Taxpayers? NVU-Johnson students included?

Charles brought up terms that end next month as an informational item; Kim, Rob, Paul. Need to express interest in reappointment to the Selectboard.

Next Meeting – Wed March 9. Motion to adjourn: Kyley, Seconded by Shayne. Unanimous.