

JOHNSON PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday, 18 JAN 2022, 7:00PM EDT

In person and via Zoom

Note to public: *This meeting was scheduled to make up for the 12 Jan 2022 meeting that had to be cancelled due to an email snafu by the Chair. -PSW*

AGENDA

Call to Order – 7:05PM

Agenda Changes & Public Comment - None

Roll Call – Charlie Gallanter (P-remote), Greg Tatro (A), Kim Cotnoir (P-remote), Kyley Hill (P), Rob Rodriguez (P), Shane Spence (A), Paul Warden (P).

Guest – Jacob Walker, Morrisville citizen,

Approval of 13 OCT 2021 minutes – Charlie moved approval, Kyley seconded. No discussion, Passed unanimously.

Update to Local Hazard Mitigation Plan from Melanie Riddle, LCPC – Briefly discussed; Melanie was to present to JPC in Dec but no quorum. Selectboard had already approved LHMP and had just asked that the Planning Commission be looped in. No action needed.

Revolving Loan Fund for Housing – Reasons for lack of use for housing? Is this a use the JPC wants to support/advocate? Briefly discussed, impression is that the Selectboard's criteria for Revolving Loan Fund use does not include housing. Possible ARPA funds, but already a long list of potential uses. Brief discussion, no action taken.

Cannabis Control Board – Updates? 500 ft school setback (VT Digger article 22 Oct 2021 forwarded by Shayne). No new information regarding possible cannabis zoning options for towns without zoning. No action taken.

Combined Town & Village Plan – (Town and Village of Johnson Municipal Development Plan; current plan 2016-2024). Last time it took approximately 2 years to get through the plan, so JPC will begin revisit starting in February. Paul asked members their thoughts on the best approach – and whether there was a way to make a more actionable plan with specific goals. Discussion regarding the best approach – reviewing chapter by chapter only in meetings takes an inordinate amount of time. Charlie opined that the Plan is excessively long and a lot of the information, while interesting, is not actually “a plan.” Discussed possibly assigning chapters to members to see what could be deleted without degrading the plan. Kim suggested we do the first chapter together to get a sense of what the commission thinks could be stuck out. Paul contacted LCPC regarding their role and support during plan review and grant funding; will follow up. Paul to pick a chapter to start review and advise members.

Rob liked to idea of a 2-5-10 year plan with specific action items – but noted this needs the support of the citizens and Selctboard if it involves money. Suggested perhaps the Selectboard has a priorities list we could review / include?

Next Meeting – Wed 2/9/2022 7PM Live

Adjourn – Kyley moved, Rob seconded. Unanimous.

From: Georgeana Little <georgeana@lpcvt.org>

Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 7:12 AM

To: Georgeana Little <rgtle@stoweaccess.com>

Subject: Rural Energy Pilot Program Grant!

Do you have a community renewable energy project that your town has studied and is seeking funds for implementation? Are there lower income families that would benefit from weatherization and efficiency projects in your community?

Check out the [The Rural Energy Pilot Program \(REPP\) grant](#) to help address the energy opportunities in your town.

The funds can be used for:

- **Installation and equipping of community-scale renewable energy technologies and systems (80% of the award)**
- **“Community energy planning, capacity building, and technical assistance” and “Community efficiency and weatherization” (up to 20% of the total award)**

This is a 3 yr. grant up to \$2 million per project. There is a 20% cost share requirement which can be provided by cash, third-party in-kind matches, and other federal grants (as authorized). **The applicant must be a municipality in partnership with at least one other organization focused on the energy project.**

Priorities with a focus on **Equity** and **Economic Development**:

- Assisting rural communities recover economically from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly disadvantaged communities.
- Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.

If you are interested in pursuing this grant, ***a letter of intent is due by April 19. Completed applications are due July 18.***

Have you thought about a community solar project? Not sure how it would work? Check out what is happening in Peacham below at their online info session.

Peacham Community Solar Online Info Session

Wednesday, Feb 9, 7:00 PM

This February, show Earth some love --- sign up for solar and save on your electricity bill! Learn more about this [100% community-owned solar](#) project based in Peacham. The 150 kW array is open to all GMP customers, whether you rent or own, already have solar, or just want to get started with one kilowatt or two. Join the Feb 9 online info session to learn more and ask questions.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86298139407?pwd=QjUzU09aaTE0c3U3VGFM0EIBK3ZlZz09>

Meeting ID: 862 9813 9407

Passcode: 121614