

JOHNSON PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES

Emergency Meeting: 09 MAR 2022, 7:00PM EDT

Members (P=Present; A=Absent)

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

Guests: Melanie Riddle and Meghan Rodier (in person), Sal Morales (remote); all LCPC staff

Start: 7:11 PM (delay getting zoom call connected)

AGENDA

Agenda Changes & Public Comment – Paul added “Term Expiration and Renewal”

Approval of 09 FEB 2022 minutes – Shayne moved; Kyley seconded; unanimous approval

Term Expirations: Kim, Rob, Paul. All expressed interest in being reappointed for another term. Thank you, Kim and Rob!!

Class IV roads update – Paul updated JPC re Selectboard discussions. Duncan suggested some degree of Class IV Road maintenance should be possible without a permit. Wants to review earlier JPC recommendation (sent to him).

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan - Melanie Riddle of LCPC attended and presented the updated plan (updated data, figures, added Table 6 to summarize actions in tabular form, etc.). Some discussion. Shayne wondered whether guidance for “Infectious Disease” (new category) for example would be practical for the Town to execute. Kyley asked about Table 7 Row 4 and re-sizing culverts; agreed covered in row 4 and 5. Shayne mentioned the potential for stranding certain areas of Town during flooding, agreed multiple routes of ingress/egress are desirable. Discussed potentially mapping areas with stranding potential and determining a solution or at least have those areas designated for potential rescue efforts. Could elicit citizen input via survey, discuss with Road Foreperson, and/or Fire Department. Meghan – we could designate these areas on the Culvert Map.

Municipal Development Plan – Meghan Rodier of LCPC presented the Municipal Plan Approval Checklist (from 24 VSA Chap 117, Suchap. 5) – this document outlines the Required Plan Elements (new statutory requirements added since the 2016 plan are in red), where they are in the current plan, comments on whether the current section meets the requirements and suggestions for the update. For example, the Energy section should now reference statewide goals from the 2022 VT Climate Action Plan and VT Comprehensive Energy Plan. Shayne asked whether the Town could be legally liable for actions not achieved, as under the Global Warming Solutions Act – Meghan said no, the Plan is aspirational.

JPC discussed the idea of surveying Town and Village citizens regarding priorities for the Municipal Development Plan, with the goal of making it a more actionable document. Sample surveys: Belzoni &

Humphreys County, Cambridge/Jeffersonville, Westford, Jericho, Underhill, and Ashford (NY – from Kiley). Discussed types of “categorizing questions” to ask: Town/Village resident, property taxpayer, length of time living in Johnson, etc. Led to a discussion of what the LCPC can do regarding data reduction. Can the results be exported from their survey tool into a sortable Excel file? Meghan will find out.

JPC members homework – review the provided surveys decide which format/approach you like best and why. Which questions are most appropriate for a Johnson survey?

Next Meeting: Wed 13 APR 2022. LCPC will not attend, JPC to discuss internally.

Motion to adjourn: Shayne, Kiley seconded. Unanimous.