

JOHNSON PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES

Special Meeting: 09 FEB 2023, 7:00 PM EDT

In person

Members (P=Present; A=Absent)

Adrienne Stevson	p	Greg Tatro	a	Rob Rodriguez	a
Charles Gallanter	p	Kim Cotnoir	a	Shayne Spence	p
David Butler	a	Kyley Hill	p	Paul Warden	p

Call to Order (7:20pm) – late start due to poor road conditions, one member delayed.

Agenda Changes - none

Public Comment - none

Approval of 12 JAN 2022 meeting minutes – Charlie moved, Shayne seconded; unanimous

Mail - Review – Charles brought 4 more hardcopy surveys that had been turned in to the Town Office.

Selectboard meeting discussions – update? - No JPC members were able to attend the SB meeting; no update available.

- Johnson Preparations for completion of the Rail Trail. Ideas? Adrienne developed a thoughtful list of possible actions to help connect the Rail Trail and downtown Johnson – list attached at end of minutes.
- ARPA funds decision status? No update
- Should the JPC be taking a more active role in the above? Shayne argued ‘yes’ the JPC should be more active and participatory in these discussions.

Review and Discussion - Johnson Unified Municipal Plan and JPC Survey. Sal Morales at LCPC has completed entry of the hardcopy responses – all responses now included in e-summary (distributed by email).

Timeline for Revision – Current Plan expires Sept 2024. LCPC estimates 12 months to revise (last effort was longer to combine Town and Village plans) and add 3 months for adoption process (reviews and public hearings) – so 15 months total, means starting by June 2023. We are starting in March 2023 so have a slight buffer, but not much – need to be focused and efficient with process.

Resources – Seth Jensen and Meghan Rodier of LCPC confirmed that LCPC staff will update all Plan stats, maps, statutory requirements etc. at no charge to JPC – part of their mission. They suggested that JPC focus on the policies and recommendations aspects of each chapter. Discussed using more of a bullet list format instead of paragraph – punch list for concise clarity. We reviewed the Wolcott Town Plan approach, where they broke down recommendations by who should lead the effort (Selectboard, Planning Commission, Private Citizens) – no decision re whether to adopt.

Should the survey results be released to the public or just used as input as we update the Town Plan? Discussion about whether to present comments (free form, difficult to summarize, some not constructive, etc.). Discussed categorizing, e.g., how many about crime vs. outdoor recreation vs. village building, etc. Shayne suggested a “word cloud” graphic to depict the frequency with which a particular word/topic was mentioned as a way of conveying levels of concern. Shayne and Adrienne will work on this. Consensus agreement that the Question/Answer compilation should be published in the summary form presented by Sal (percents and bar graphs). Discussed printed flyer with out without QR code – but no budget remains. Decided on simple post in Front Porch Forum with link to results on JPC website.

Next meeting - March 9th: Meghan Rodier and Sal Morales of LCPC will attend, in person or remotely, to discuss the Housing and Demographics chapter. Chair distributed copies of the first 10 pages of the Plan; asked that the Recommendations be reviewed and edited for discussion at next meeting (members not in attendance can review on the Town website under Documents/Plans).

Adjourn: 8:30 pm

Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Brainstorm – Adrienne Steveson

Goal from Rail Trail for Town of Johnson?

Bring People into the Town of Johnson

-Business

-Bring in future residents

Existing things geared toward Rail Trail:

Lamoille Valley Bike Tours (E-Bikes)

Main Access Point from Trail:

-Railroad Street- 9 minute walk 3 minute bike ride

-Side walk on one side starting at JP's

-Bike rack in front of hair salon

-Small trash can on corner

-Passing by to Main Street: Dog's Head Trail Parking, Johnson Public Library, Laundromat, Hair Salon

What people coming off trail might need:

- Bathrooms
- Water (Fill up water bottles)
- Food
- Places to rest
- Trash receptacles

What people coming off trail might want:

- Souvenirs
- Bike/Snowmobile supplies
- Tourism attraction (Instagramable moment)
- Scenic views

Small Ideas

- Advertise at Trail Head “Things to do in Johnson” -Johnson Works
- Beautification Committee focus on Railroad Street to help lead people to Main Street

Medium Ideas

- Benches in different areas. Location recommendation: River Road and Rail Road Street
- Pump Station- Area where bikers can fill up tires
- Block Party / Food Trucks day or week/weekend
- Dog accommodations
- More trash recycle bins

Big Ideas

- Restrooms/Waterfountain in Town Square - Signs leading to restrooms
Pump station could be included in this
- Park or some kind of activity at river to make this a destination on trail
Something to think about:
Gaining demographics from the people that use the trail
- More bike racks