

**JOHNSON PLANNING COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

Regular Meeting: THURS, 12 OCT 2023, 7PM EDT

*In person at Butternut Mountain Farm Store, 31 Main St., Johnson*

**Members** (P=Present; A=Absent)

<b>Adrienne Stevson</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Kim Cotnoir</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Paul Warden</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Charles Gallanter</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Kyley Hill</b>	<b>P</b>	<i>Vacant Seat</i>	
<b>David Butler</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Rob Rodriguez</b>	<b>P</b>	<i>Vacant Seat</i>	

Other: Meghan Rodier and Alberto Della Torre, LCPC

Call to Order: 7:02

**Roll Call** - Above

**Agenda Changes & Public Comment** - None

**Housekeeping**

- Approval of Minutes from 14 SEP 2023 meeting. Kylie moved approval as written, Charles seconded. Passed; Rob abstained having been absent.
- Mail – No new mail.

**Chair / Member Updates:**

Lamoille FiberNet - Chair provided brief update on Lamoille FiberNet CUD, construction grant awarded, now in contract details with CCI, then detailed network design. Construction to begin in 2024, plan is to build and serve 85% of the unserved and under-served population in 2024. Will include all un/underserved in Johnson. As discussed previously, the CUD’s mission is to bring high speed internet to the un/underserved population, while building the network to those locations, many addresses will be passed and some of those will be eligible to be served as well. The CUD’s grant money cannot be used to build network to already served addresses (but CCI/Fidium intends to do that with their capital).

Sterling Market – Brief discussion of the news that Associated Grocer’s Board voted not to return their business to the current Johnson location, presumably due to flood risk. It is understood that there may be another interested party. Some discussion of whether a small store like Hanley’s in Jeffersonville would be viable somewhere in the downtown area if no market returns; favorable impression of the idea, uncertain re economic viability.

**Form Based Code Administrative Officer**

To be nominated by JPC. Traditionally the FBC AO has been the Town Administrator; therefore suggest Tom Galinat. Brief discussion, Rob moved that Tom be nominated; Kylie seconded, passed unanimously.

**Review of Town Plan Chapters:**

Public Services and Community Facilities – Previously discussed, JPC reviewed LCPC’s edits, made only minor changes.

Under Public Wi-Fi, discussed elaborating on the sentence about Lamoille FiberNet.

*INSERT*

In 2020 (verify year), the Johnson Selectboard voted to join Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District (CUD) with the goal of bringing high speed internet service to the rural addresses in town. Legally, CUDs are municipalities that are created by multiple towns to join forces to facilitate high speed internet service, however CUDs are not able to tax citizens. Currently, Lamoille FiberNet represents all 10 towns in Lamoille County and has been awarded a Pre-Construction and Construction grants from the Vermont Communications Broadband Board (VCBB), the group created by the Vermont legislature to distribute federal broadband dollars in Vermont. Lamoille FiberNet has negotiated an agreement with Fidium Fiber, a division of Consolidated Communications Inc. for network construction, operation and maintenance; construction is slated to begin in 2024.

Under Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), it was noted that Johnson’s 2 EOCs (Fire Station and Municipal Building) are adjacent and it might be advisable to move one or have a third elsewhere (a Johnson elementary School or VSU-Johnson, for example).

RE Johnson Health Center, it was discussed whether there was a physician on staff or not – needs to be clarified.

Education

First review, most comments were addressed to bringing statistics, terminology re “Johnson State” and activities current.

Under “Policies” it was suggested that a bullet be added to recognize the importance of the college campus to the Town of Johnson.

Under “Recommendations” it was suggested to add a bullet: “Engage and build relationships with VSU-Johnson to foster a close working relationship for the mutual benefit of the Town and college community.”

Recreation

Naming conventions for Field Days and Journey’s End were discussed.

The term “lease” was removed from discussion of VAST’s use of private and public lands since these agreements are non-monetary.

Discussion regarding naming “Recreational Businesses” ensued; Charles stated his concern that in naming some, we might miss others, which would be to their detriment.

Policies regarding enhancement of community greenspace and floodplain protection to provide recreation while also mitigating flood risk were added.

Adjourn: 8:50.

Next Meeting: 09 Nov 2023.