

January 9, 2024 Planning Board

Present were: Regular Members: Vice-Chair Tom McCue, , Larry Laflamme, Dan Whittet, Karen Collins and Micah Bachner; **Ex-Officio Member:** Lise Barrette; **Alternate Members:** Jeffrey Quackenbush and Cassandra Mason

Excused were Regular Members: Chair Lori Langlois and Henry Noel; **Ex-Officio Member:** Peter Morency.

Others Present: Pamela Laflamme, Director of Strategic Initiatives; Lisa Connell, Berlin Daily Sun via Zoom and William Downie, Barrett Planning Group via Zoom.

Acting Chair Tom McCue called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Public Comments

None

Approval of December 5, 2023 Minutes

Mr. Laflamme made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2023 meeting as submitted. Mr. Bachner seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion carried.

Housing Opportunity Grant Follow-up

Mr. Downie of the Barrett Planning Group shared his slideshow presentation. There was an overview of the information that has been collected from the Housing Study Interviews and the two Community Engagement Events. He then shared some slides on their Regulatory Audit which included Land Use Policy Barriers to Housing Development.

Mr. Quackenbush asked if the parking issues around the downtown area could be addressed in more detail with some recommendations. Mr. Downie will include this in the draft regulations.

An online survey will be used to collect more information from the public. It will focus on the findings listed in the Audit.

Barrett Planning will be giving drafts of specific ordinances to the Planning Board to make comments on and give feedback.

All of the work of the Barrett Planning Group will be done by July 30, 2024.

There was further discussion about including demographics in the online survey and about short term rentals. Mr. Quackenbush also asked if there could be a visual created to see where Single Families and Multi Families are located in Berlin and how it's changed over time. Ms. Barrette can work on creating a map layer to see where we are at right now, but she is unable to create anything over time.

Other

Ms. Laflamme shared that it is Peter Morency's final meeting although he was unable to make it tonight. She expressed her thanks to Mr. Morency for stepping in when we needed another member.

Public Comments

None

Member Comments

Mr. Quackenbush shared that the Androscoggin Valley Energy Collaborative, also known as AVEC, will be holding public meetings in Berlin, Randolph, Stark and Stratford to discuss the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. There will be two public hearings at the Berlin City Hall, one on January 17th and another on February 14th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

Project Updates

Ms. Laflamme shared that although she doesn't have any updates at this time, she has been very busy with multiple projects.

The next Planning Board meeting will be on February 6th.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the board, Mr. Whittet made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Collins seconded it. All in favor, the motion carried.

The Planning Board meeting ended at 7:36 pm.