

TOWN OF LYNDON
PLANNING COMMISSION
December 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes
Approved 1/10/18

Planning Commissioners: Chris Thompson, Evan Carlson, Andrea Day, Sylvia Dodge, Sean McFeeley

Public Official(s): Annie McLean

Public: None

Chris Thompson chaired the meeting, which was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Update on Downtown Revitalization and Economic Development Committees' USDA technical assistance grant application

Sylvia Dodge made a **motion to approve the minutes of November 8, 2017 as amended**. Chris Thompson **seconded the motion**. The Commission **voted 4-0** (Andrea Day abstained).

Chris Thompson noted that the Selectboard had acknowledged receipt of the Planning Commission's recommendation for use of the former Town Garage property and was generally supportive of the Commission's vision and would like to solicit public input. The Commission agreed that having some sort of display at Town Meeting along with a short survey was the most feasible way to solicit public input. Commissioners mentioned highlighting points from their letter to the Selectboard and providing visuals. Chris Thompson suggested applying for a Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Watershed Grant, which could help fund the development of a conceptual plan for the site. The Watershed Grant awards up to \$10,000, depending on project category type. Category types and the maximum grant amount for each project category type are as follows: Education and outreach – up to \$5,000, Planning, assessment, inventory, monitoring – up to \$3,500, On-the-ground implementation – up to \$10,000. Evan Carlson mentioned the need to interlink trails to the site and the need to start conversations with potential partners early. Sylvia Dodge will contact Passumpsic Valley Land Trust and Annie McLean will contact Kingdom Trails to discuss conceptual use of the site in cooperation with surrounding land owners. Chris Thompson will pursue the ANR Watershed Grant for planning.

Evan Carlson updated the Commission on the USDA technical assistance grant application being prepared by the Downtown Revitalization and Economic Development committees. The Committees are jointly seeking a grant of \$100,000 from the USDA to support efforts to bring new technology infrastructure to Lyndon and provide technical assistance for village businesses. Across the Northeast Kingdom better connectivity is held back by poor infrastructure and lack of big telecom interest. Through public Wi-Fi networks in the downtown we can encourage people to stay a little longer when they visit, create a centralized place for people to learn about area events and make Lyndonville friendlier to travelers. Looking beyond the village center we want to understand the feasibility of a municipal/rural NEK fiber-optic cooperative. The large telecoms of Vermont will not run fiber the last mile on many of Lyndon's back roads leaving more than 30% of the town unable to access high speed internet. Creating a fiber co-op will allow Lyndon to have 100% connectivity and create new jobs for our area. Another piece of the grant would provide digital strategy and technical assistance resources to promote business growth. From starting a social media account to setting up a payment processor to complete product development for a web presence, this technical assistance would support retailers on a variety of levels. The Committees are seeking letters of support from the Planning Commission and Selectboard for the grant application.

There is currently one open seat on the Planning Commission and Andrea Day, whose term is up in March of 2018, will not be seeking reappointment. Commissioners discussed possible new ways to advertise openings on the Planning commission including at Town Meeting, Rotary meetings, reaching out to local political leaders/parties, and distributing fliers in strategic locations around town such as the at the Diner, Library, and College.

Annie McLean noted that the Commission had received notice updates to the Town of Danville Zoning Bylaw as well as notice of several Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Permits issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The Commission would like to be kept apprised of all new Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Permits issued by DEC in the future. Sylvia Dodge mentioned the Planning Commission report for the Annual Town Report and Ms. McLean agreed to circulate a draft report for Commissioner input immediately.

Commissioners continued review and consolidation of the allowed uses and definitions of these uses found in the Town Zoning Bylaws.

The Planning Commission will not meet on December 27, 2017. The Next Planning Commission meeting will be January 10, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.