

**Town of Lyndon**  
**Planning Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 08, 2024**

In attendance—

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Holly Taylor (chair), Ken Mason, John Peters, Dan Guest, Curtis Carpenter (Zoom).

OFFICIALS: Tracy Bodeo (Planning Director)

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**Meeting begins:** Chair, Holly Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**Agenda Changes:** None

**Approval of the minutes from the November 13, 2024, meeting:** Ken Mason made a motion to approve. Curtis Carpenter seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**Comments from public on non-agenda items:** None

**Meeting Discussion—**

The first topic of discussion was continuing to pursue “Downtown Designation”. Tracy explained that the town is currently at Tier 2 (“Village Center Designation”) and a nonprofit group needs to be formed to apply for the next tier (Tier 3, “Downtown Designation”). This would involve a board, an executive director, and regular meetings. The town would also need to decide on the possibility of adding a design district or historic district. Curtis expressed concerns about the feasibility of forming a new board due to the difficulty in finding volunteers. It is uncertain whether the historical society, a chamber of commerce or the downtown revitalization corps could fill this role. Tracy discussed the potential for creating a capital improvement plan (CIP) with the help of a consultant funded through a municipal planning grant (MPG). This would be beneficial regardless of whether a downtown designation is pursued, but the grant could be used for other purposes as well. Downtown designation might not be feasible until the following year, after these other pieces are put into place.

The next discussion topic was the Downtown Transportation Fund (DTF) Grant proposal. Tracy discussed the potential benefits of applying for the DTF grant, which could be used for safety improvements along the roads, including pedestrian crosswalks and lighting. She suggested starting with Depot Street and extending from there in the future. First, we would need to complete a historic preservation project review form by the next week. The DTF would be an implementation grant based on suggestions from the previously funded Better Connections program (Route 5 Corridor Master Plan) and noted the potential positive impact on businesses and the community. They discussed the possibility of replacing the current lights with more ornamental ones but noted that this might not provide the same level of illumination.

They also discussed the cost and logistics of such a change, including the need for additional wiring and potential disruption to the existing infrastructure. Curtis suggested that they could increase the number of lights in dark areas, and Tracy stated that other communities are doing this with decorative LED lighting. They agreed to further research the issue, including looking into code changes and the history of the current lighting system. John suggested that the project start with improving the crosswalks, which are currently just painted on the road. They also proposed the idea of using raised pavers to slow down traffic but expressed concerns about potential interference with snow plowing. Tracy mentioned the need for better marking of crosswalks and the importance of pedestrian safety. Ken shared some pictures of Lyndon from the past and it was noted that it used to be more picturesque before industrialization and technological advancements. The Town would have to be prepared to start the project if they were to receive this grant.

The Planning Commission also proposed the idea of revitalizing Bandstand Park by adding picnic tables and a butterfly garden. Holly suggested a "picnic table drive" to raise funds and potentially involve local businesses in donating tables. They agreed to do some research on all topics mentioned before the next meeting, which is scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:55 pm.