

Town of Lyndon
Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 22, 2024

In attendance—

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

OFFICIALS: Tracy Bodeo (Planning Director)

PUBLIC: ---

PRESS: ---

Meeting begins: Chair, Holly Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Agenda Changes: None

Approval of the minutes from the January 08, 2025, meeting: Ken Mason made a motion to approve. John Peters seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Comments from public on non-agenda items: None

Meeting Discussion—

First Holly opened the meeting by discussing the dissolution of the Lyndon Chamber of Commerce into the NEK Chamber, with the latter taking over all the Lyndon Chamber's offerings and discounts. However, the NEK Chamber will not be organizing the Lyndon Chamber's events, such as Trunk or Treat or the Stars and Stripes Parade. It was suggested that a committee form to organize the parade and ask the town to funnel funds through them. The estimated cost for the parade is \$10,000. Lyndon also mentioned the possibility of other groups, like the Rotary, taking over some of the events. The NEK Chamber, which represents 48 towns, is not expected to take over event coordination.

Second the PC expressed a need for direction and a work plan for the year. One suggestion was reviewing zoning bylaws to ensure they align with new state legislation and fixing any typographical errors. It was also noted that some previous major issues, such as signage and flood regulations, had already been addressed and there may not be a need at the current time to proactively look for other issues to address. There will, however, be a discussion at an upcoming meeting, about Act 47 and the town bylaws. Another project could be the possible placement of an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station somewhere in town. This could be an asset to Lyndon since people would have to get out of their vehicle while charging and would then have the time to visit some of the town businesses. One could be put in at The White Market possibly or the Bosch site, if the town eventually owned that piece of property.

Next there was a discussion on the Downtown Transportation Fund grant that the Town is applying for. Tracy turned in the necessary paperwork for a historical preservation review of the project, which hopefully is approved. She is continuing to work on the application and conceptual drawings. If awarded, the project would include the installation of more visible crosswalks and decorative lighting, to enhance the look and safety of Depot Street. These pedestrian safety improvements were suggested in other

previous planning efforts and reports. Depending on the amount awarded, the project would have to be done in phases over the next few years, starting with two to four crosswalks with pedestrian-scale lighting. These improvements could help with safety issues, provide a more welcoming feel to visitors, and might help business by encouraging people to stop and walk the downtown area.

In other business, the PC discussed a survey that some received from Paul Hayes on volunteerism in the community. It was noted that there may be a decline due to the changing nature of business and the increased accessibility of services online. They also stated that in recruiting volunteers for various boards and events, the same group of people often get involved in multiple activities. It could also be attributed to the changing shopping patterns and the shift from physical stores to online, or people being too busy or not feeling the need to participate as much as before. The conversation also touched on the challenges of maintaining interest in community events and the need for new volunteers to fill the gaps left by those who have burned out. And they finally made a comment on the challenges of serving on town boards, including dealing with contentious issues like flood hazard mitigation that led to resignations.

Before ending, the PC proposed discussing an EV charging station location again, as well as the possibility of putting in picnic tables in Bandstand Park, at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.