

**Town of Warren
Planning Commission
Minutes of Meeting
Monday January 23, 2017**

Members Present: Jim Sanford, Mike Ketchel, Camilla Behn, Alison Duckworth, Dan Raddock, Randy Graves and Mike Bridgewater.

Others Present: Ellen Strauss, Kristine Keeney, Bob Ackland, Miron Malboeuf and Ruth Robbins.

Agenda: Dinner 6:30 to 7:30. Call meeting to order 7:30.

1. List of topics for Discussion
 - a. What is development?
 - b. What is Economic Vitality?
 - c. Who are we and what do we see for the future of Warren?
 - d. What do we see for infrastructure improvements, e.g. Fire Station and Town Garage?
 - e. What are our housing needs, and how can we work towards them?
2. Review & sign minutes, January 9th, 2017 draft
3. Other & New business:

After a delicious potluck dinner, Mr. Ketchel called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm. The first item of business was to review and sign the minutes from the previous meeting. The meeting then started out with members sharing either a story of an experience they or someone they knew had that related to one of the topics listed for discussion or even just what they saw as a priority to focus on in the rewrite of the Town Plan. Comments ranged from how younger [30 somethings] family members, friends, coworkers, cannot find affordable housing – some despite having what one might think is a significant income ; not enough nightlife or social stimulation in the valley; on the flip side older folks [an example of a 72 year old brother –in-law] was relocating here; the town does not have the infrastructure necessary for development of affordable housing; too many large houses are being built and development in some areas that should be conserved; maybe a three town housing commission would be beneficial; have researched affordable housing construction and there are options available; how to solve the deficiencies of the Town garage and also get it relocated out of the village to a location that is still somewhat centrally located; couple a new town garage with the need for a larger fire department building up at Lincoln Peak.

The discussion moved on to a more general topic of what the town might be, could be, in the future; what is the future vision for living, working, visiting, playing, raising a family in Warren look like ten, twenty, fifty years from now; more development in the form of businesses and restaurants or less people; what do we sacrifice in order to keep what we have and make it better; how do we control the ever increasing property values; do we consider having a valley wide minimum wage; the latest statistics show that there is a decline in the number of those who both live and work in the valley; how do we retain the “soul” of Warren; is part of our appeal a place of less, slower than other places; how do we maintain socio-economic and age diversity; can economic vitality exist without growth but rather a way to sustain what we already have; how do we define the “lifestyle” of the valley and in turn market it; how do we feel about valley consolidation of services.


Grazing on some yummy desserts during the discussions, the meeting finally came to a close at 10:08 pm. The Planning Commission sincerely thanks Jim and Ellen for opening their home for a relaxed conversation and meal.

Respectfully Submitted,

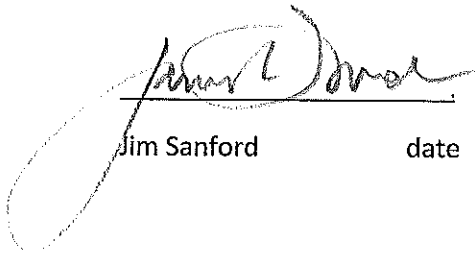
Ruth V. Robbins

DRB/PC Assistant

Planning Commission

 2/13/17

Mike Ketchel date


 2.13.17

Jim Sanford date

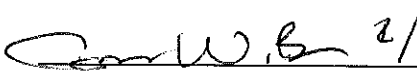
Alison Duckworth date

Randy Graves date

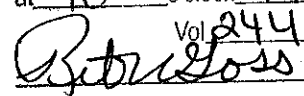
Mike Bridgewater date

 2/13/17

Dan Raddock date

 2/13/17

Camilla Behn date

TOWN OF WARREN, VT
Received for Record 2/14 20
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Vol. 244 Page 64-65

TOWN CLERK
VT Property Transfer Tax Return #