

**Town of Warren
Planning Commission
Minutes of Meeting
Monday July 10, 2017**

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

Others Present: Marilyn Miller, Sue Carter, Brandy Saxton, Miron Malboeuf and Ruth Robbins.

Agenda: Call the meeting to order, 7:30 pm

1. Opportunity for Public Comment 7:30-7:45
2. Update on Warren Main Street improvement project, Feedback, comments, Bike Rack
3. Town Plan Update, Brandy Saxton
 - a. Outline of the content, what the purposes of the plan are, and what approach this revision should take to make the plan more effective at achieving its purposes.
 - b. Community Survey – Update on responses
4. Review & sign minutes June 26, 2017
5. Other & New business:

Mr. Ketchel called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Two Town residents were present with comments and concerns about the road changes at the intersection of Brook Road and Main Street. They felt that Brook Road had become narrower yet cars did not seem to be slowing down and the trees and granite post as part of the newly installed pedestrian walkway at the corner was impeding the turning radius for the school bus. They also asked if the new brick area was for parking or pedestrians as cars were parking on the brick. PC members responded by saying that the intent of the new road changes were to create a narrower visual to get folks to slow down as well as the feel of a different texture of the stone blocks. Getting folks to slow down will not necessarily happen overnight though some have observed a slowing down already. The brick areas are not a sidewalk – it is the same level as the road and is meant to be used by both automobiles and pedestrians as has been customary in those areas previously.

Following the public comment the PC continued on the subject of the Main Street Improvement Project learning that the paving of the middle of the project area would be taking place this week and that it is intended that the project be complete by weeks end. One PC member also noted that the rain we had over the past few days has shown that the new infrastructure below the resurfacing is taking care of the storm water as intended. A brief discussion took place about acquiring some old farm implements [hay rake?] for repurposing into a bike rack by the gazebo. Another item that has yet to be determined/decided on is some sort of unique bench in the pedestrian space to the south of the Warren Store.

The PC members then welcomed Ms. Saxton who is the consultant engaged to help with the updating of the Town Plan. She first updated the members with the responses to the Community Survey which has totaled

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approx. 255 online and she just got tonight an additional nine hand written submittals. Ms. Saxton said that though she had glanced at the survey responses she would have a summary/analysis for the members at the July 24th meeting. She then moved on to the Town Plan and an outline, in the form of a table of contents, showed the PC how she would suggest they re-organize the information. It also shows how many pages currently are devoted to certain subjects. Ms. Saxton said that there has been a movement towards making town plans less educational/historical and more of a policy and action document.

She asked the members to think about what they want the plan to do, and how it should function, adding that the text needs to contribute to what the plan needs to do. With that in mind, she noted that they currently do not have a precise "vision statement" which something else they should consider. Ms. Saxton noted that with the Plan organized as it is, things have been added, modified over the years and that she found some overlap and inconsistencies. She noted that overall, she expected the rewrite of the Town Plan to be mostly a re-organization eliminating the inconsistencies with a modest change in the emphasis. She asked the PC members to do some "homework" and focus on and give some thought to *Section 4 Planning Considerations* for discussion at the August 28th meeting. A first draft of some suggested language will be prepared for the August 14th meeting.

The members reviewed and signed the minutes from the June 26th meeting. In other business Mr. Graves asked his fellow PC members for some feedback/input on two items: possible changes to the Warren Dog Ordinance and the recent presentation by Arrowwood that advocated preserving the Top Gas property for the wildlife habitat that exists there. The PC seemed split about changes to the Dog Ordinance with concerns expressed about how a stricter ordinance that would allow fines to be issued would be handled and the addition of more regulation in general. Others felt that over the years the town has grown and that the occurrence of nuisance dogs and public safety issues were more prevalent and that stronger language was needed. In regards to the Top Gas property [which was bought by the Town] the majority of the members felt that putting such comprehensive and long term restrictions on a piece of Town property was not in the overall best interest of the town. There are several conserved pieces of land in Warren which is also adjacent to the Granville Gulf Reservation consisting of 1,171 acres of conserved wildlife habitat.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruth V. Robbins
DRB/PC Assistant

Planning Commission

TOWN OF WARREN, VT
Received for Record 8/7 2017
at 11:50 o'clock A M and Received in
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Ruth V. Robbins
TOWN CLERK
VT Property Transfer Tax Return # —

Alison Duckworth date

Jim Sanford date

[Signature] 7/24/17

[Signature] 07/24/17

Dan Raddock date

Randy Graves date

[Signature] 7/24/17
Mike Bridgewater date

[Signature] 7/24/17
Mike Ketchel date