

**TOWN OF WARREN
PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2008**

Members present: Jim Sanford, Mike Ketchel, Craig Klofach, Don LaHaye, and Lisa Miserendino.

Others Present: Dan Raddock, Ellen Strauss, Miron Malboeuf and Ruth Robbins.

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

1. Interview with Planning Commission candidate
2. Conversation with Ellen Strauss re: Library move
3. Review & sign minutes from September 8, 2008
4. Status of Survey
5. Other business

Mr. Ketchel called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

The members reviewed and signed the minutes from the September 8th meeting. There were no requested changes or corrections.

The Commission spent time talking with Dan Raddock, a local attorney who has expressed interest in filling the vacant seat on the Commission. Though only a full time resident for a short time, Mr. Raddock's wife's family has had a home here for over thirty years so he is familiar with the valley. Mr. Raddock stated that he wanted to lend his skills and energy in fostering the community that provides the environment we all find so attractive. He said that the challenge was to find a balance between growth which was inevitable, and maintaining all the things we love about living here. The members plan on making a decision between this candidate and another one they interviewed last month and sending their recommendation to the Select Board.

Ellen Strauss, architect, spoke with the Commission about her work on the renovation of the Town Hall and the future relocation of the library to that site. She stressed to the members that if the library's move was truly to be "temporary" that they needed to start now to lay the groundwork for a more permanent facility. She explained how the renovations were necessary for the Town Hall be more structurally sound and in compliance whether or not the library was to move there or not. It was also pointed out that the additional structural reinforcement of the floor to accommodate the stacks of books was being paid by the Friends of the Library, not the Town. She shared with the members the detail to which the Historic Preservation group worked with her to keep the building historically true yet move towards a level of compliance that the State fire and safety folks would find acceptable. It was her understanding that the Select Board was about to award the contract for the renovations to begin and that the library could possibly move in sometime in the spring of 2009.

The Commission discussed the final logistics of getting the survey out to Warren land owners and voters asking for their input on possible changes to the Warren Village Residential and Warren Village Commercial Districts. Mr. Klofach said that the list should be ready by Thursday am, Mr. Ketchel with help set up the mail merge, and hopefully the survey will be posted by end of business Friday. Mr. Klofach is also working on a press release to go to the Valley Reporter for the October 2nd edition.

Under other business, Mr. Sanford reported on the Steering Committee sharing how Sugarbush has questioned their continuing monetary participation as they didn't have a "vote". Mr. Sanford went on to say that in his tenure they have never "voted" but instead either come to a consensus or not. The other issue discussed by the Steering committee was the upcoming vote on the Waitsfield Municipal Water project. As a committee, the general feeling was that it was an important project that should be supported and they wondered if there was any way the other valley towns could somehow show support.

Mr. Ketchel reported on the Safe Routes to School project. It is a three part grant of which they have been awarded the first stage. Mr. Klofach and Mr. LaHaye reported on their meeting of the Forest, Wildlife & Communities Project informing the Commission of a "kick-off" scheduled for October 30th at the Big Picture in Waitsfield. Mr. Klofach explained that this project will combine the wildlife assessments that have been done in the three valley towns of Warren, Waitsfield and Fayston, map the wildlife areas (i.e. deer, bear) and then recommend how best to make sure those areas area protected with clearer, consistent language in the land use regulations in the three towns.

Mr. Klofach moved that the Commission go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the candidate for the vacant position. Mr. Malboeuf and Ms. Robbins were invited to attend. The motion was seconded by Mr. LaHaye. All voted in favor. (9:32) The Commission came out of executive session at 9:35. Motion was made by Mr. Klofach to recommend Mr. Raddock to the Select Board to fill the vacant position on the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Ms. Miserendino and all voted in favor.

Mr. Ketchel adjourned the meeting at 9:37 pm. The October meetings of the Planning Commission are scheduled for Monday October 6th and Monday October 27th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth V. Robbins
DRB/PC Assistant

Planning Commission

Jim Sanford date

Mike Ketchel date

Craig Klofach date

Don LaHaye date

Lisa Miserendino date