**VILLAGE OF OLD BENNINGTON**

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

**First Church Barn, Monument Circle**

MINUTES

FOR

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

**Members present:**

Nancy Coseo –Chair, Galen Jones - Vice Chair, Carl Feltz (via phone), Renny Ponvert

**Members absent:**

Brian Scheetz

**Community Members present**:

None

The Village of Old Bennington Planning Commission was called to order at 7:04 PM.

Galen Jones motioned that the Commission accept the minutes from the 8/14/2023 meeting. Renny Ponvert seconded the motion. The Commission voted to accept the motion unanimously.

There were no public comments not related to the agenda.

The Commission discussed Planning Commission Meetings and Hearings Rules and Procedure. An established Old Bennington document outlines policy and rules to ensure fair treatment of applicants and villagers, orderly and efficient procedures and compliance with state laws. The Commissioners discussed guidelines that will help ensure villagers attend meetings, ask questions and share comments.

The Commission discussed the open Zoning Administrator position. Work is being done to recruit applicants for the position (long term and interim).

The Commission deferred a decision on a fence application for 7 Fairview St. until more information can be reviewed.

The Commission discussed a request from 67 Monument Ave. to extend a temporary fence for an additional 6 months. Renny Ponvert motioned to approve with a deadline of 3/31, with no more extensions. Galen Jones seconded. The Commission voted to approve unanimously. Any desire for future fencing would require a new application.

The Commission discussed the need for ongoing dialogue at all future meetings (time permitting) in order to keep abreast on key evolving issues that concern the Village. Of particular note, commercial use and entities in the village and solar installations. The Commission is in the process of updating specific Zoning Bylaws in 2023. The Village Plan will be updated in 2024, followed by a complete Zoning Bylaw update.

The Commission continued review and made note of needed clarification of the following Zoning Bylaws - Tree removal, Lighting and Fences. Work is ongoing.

The Commission discussed pursuing a Municipal Planning Grant through the Department of Housing and Community Development to help fund a rewrite of the Village Plan. The Commission deferred a decision until more information could be gathered.

Galen Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting. Renny Ponvert seconded the motion. The Commission voted to approve the motion unanimously.

The Commission adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Coseo

Planning Commission Chair