

VILLAGE OF OLD BENNINGTON
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

February 12, 2024

Members Present: Nancy Coseo (Chair), Galen Jones (Vice-Chair) [via Zoom], Carl Feltz, Renny Ponvert, Brian Scheetz

Others Present: Deborah Towslee (Zoning Administrator)

Community Members Present: None

Call to Order: 7:02:01 PM

Changes to Agenda: Mr. Coseo recommended discussing new business in advance of additional Bylaw review discussion.

Public Comment: None.

Motion: To approve Minutes of the Planning Commission Regular Meeting January 8, 2024. Ms. Coseo asked that a misspelling of her last name be corrected in one location. Motion to approve after corrected by Mr. Ponvert, second by Mr. Scheetz. Approved unanimously at 7:03:01 pm.

New Business: Ms. Coseo shared information from the Village of Old Bennington Board of Trustees' Regular Meeting Tuesday, February 6, 2024 - after which there was discussion about the Village collaborating with the Town to better maintain roads and infrastructure in a way that minimizes impact on property taxes. Members agreed unanimously that Mr. Jones will represent the PC in any future meetings and when additional input is requested by the trustees.

Mr. Scheetz left the meeting at 7:37:30.

Mr. Jones noted his concern that a property owner removed several adult trees from their property. Ms. Towslee had no knowledge of a permit application for the property. Ms. Coseo indicated that she'd reach out to the Tree Commissioner to determine if he had any knowledge of the removed trees after which Ms. Towslee will contact the homeowner if warranted. Conversation then continued around the ongoing proposed but not yet approved changes to Bylaw.

Ms. Coseo shared additional changes to regulations and clarification to ambiguous language in existing Bylaw required to bring the Village of Old Bennington Bylaw in compliance with state law.

Ms. Coseo discussed the timeline and process that will follow when the PC ultimately approves the modifications to Bylaw Draft. Public input is necessary and encouraged. Once approved by the PC, the Bylaw Draft will be available for public review and comment in advance of a public hearing that will be announced in the Bennington Banner, in two public locations, and on the Village of Old Bennington website at oldbennington.org.

A brief discussion ensued about the value of a Short-Term Rental Ordinance and the impact that a registration fee may have. Further research and discussion are required.

Motion: To Adjourn. Made by Mr. Jones, second by Mr. Feltz. Agreed unanimously at 9:00:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Towslee

Zoning Administrator [Friday, February 16, 2024, 02:55:24 pm]