

Montgomery Planning Commission Minutes
Public Safety Building
November 8th, 2022, 6:00 PM

Present: Kenny Miller, Peter Locher, Barry Kade, Alissa Hardy, and Joe Sherman

Guests: Gwen St. Sauveur, Linda Mahns, James Schley

Additions and Deletions - Deletion of Charlie Hancock: Wastewater Service Area and Funding Eligibility

Minutes - Peter made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Kenny 2nd, approved 5-0

By-Law Modernization Grant Update - Alissa updated the board about the By-Law Modernization Grant. Greta will attend our January and February meetings. In January, she will share with us the housing needs assessment. In February, she will share their audit of our by-laws and their initial recommendations.

Proposed Short-Term Rental Ordinance Update - A discussion was had involving partial versus entire structure rentals as it relates to fees.

Joe encouraged everyone to attend "The Housing for All workshop," which will be held on November 17th. With a focus on education about accessory dwellings.

A discussion was had on the ideal timing for the STR ordinance. Peter attended the Selectboard meeting, where a discussion was had among the SB members on the timing to warn the ordinance. They would like to time it so if a petition to vote does happen; it would coincide with Town Meeting Day.

Next Steps: Barry will research time requirements for warnings, petitions, and votes.

Dialog with the Two Secretarial Candidates - The commission met with two candidates to review the secretarial position and their respective qualifications. Both were well qualified. The board decided to wait until the end of the meeting to enter an executive session to discuss the merits of both candidates.

Bike Path Update from Joe - Joe shared his discussions with John Witherspoon about the past activities towards creating a bike path and potential placement for it in the future.

Key considerations: The Landowners along the path must consent and support the path; Community outreach would be needed to build a broader consensus that a bike path would benefit the community. Further discussion was tabled.

Other Business - Regional Planning Grant. Alissa will email Greta in regards to the Regional Planning Grant application that is due on December 1st. She will inquire if this grant is a good possible source of funding for regional planning's assistance in the upcoming renewal of the Town Plan due in 2024.

Public Comment - James Schley attended our meeting to voice his concerns on how the Town Plan has evolved. He believes the Town Plan addressed the future needs of the town's growth in the past plans and has become less inclusive and more agenda driven. Discussion followed about how to be more inclusive and encourage community involvement as we begin to update the Town Plan.

Executive Session entered at 8:18 and exited at 8:35

Peter made a motion to hire Qwen St. Sauveur as secretary, with Linda Mahn as a backup if needed and available, and Kenny 2nd. Approved 3-2

Adjourned at 8:37

Respectfully submitted by Alissa Hardy and Peter Locher