

Town of Montgomery Planning Commission Meeting

Minutes October 9, 2018

Attending: Alissa, Joe, Ellen Fox (ZA), Kenny, and Barry

Minutes submitted to Roberta by Ellen Fox

Meeting called to order at 6:15

Approval of previous meeting minutes:

Alissa read the minutes from the September 27 meeting. There was discussion about the planning commission support for a municipal planning grant and a brief update that the grant was for a feasibility study for parking in town. Alissa made a motion to approve the minutes. Kenny seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Alissa read the minutes from the September 11 meeting. Barry motioned to approve the minutes, Alissa seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Energy Plan:

Alissa recapped that Taylor is checking our energy plan to be sure it is compliant, and in line with the regional energy plan. The public hearing for discussion of the plan was originally scheduled for October 22. Because October 22 is scheduled as a community gathering to set priorities that came out of the Montgomery Thrives workshops/Community visit, Charlie requested that the public hearing be rescheduled. Taylor will reschedule the hearing to a November date so representatives from Montgomery can attend, and he will provide that date to Alissa. Barry noted that he will be away November 4-10.

Zoning Bylaws Update:

Alissa informed the group that nearly all the updates to the Zoning Bylaws that came from public comment at the selectboard hearing are in the question that will go before voters on November 6. There was one change that was raised in the public comment process that was not incorporated into the proposed final changes. That change is in the definitions. FEMA uses market value as a metric for consideration to qualify to rebuild within a flood zone. It had been proposed to replace this with town assessed value; however since the market value metric is used by FEMA it will be retained in the definitions section of the Zoning Bylaws. The town assessed value will be used as criteria for when it is necessary to apply for a town building permit.

The changes will go before voters in two questions on November 6. One will be to approve clerical changes to the Zoning Bylaws and the other will be to approve substantial changes to the Zoning Bylaws. There will be an information meeting for voters to ask questions on November 1. It will be helpful to have Planning Commission representatives to attend this meeting.

Trails:

The was discussion to identify an interested person for the trail project, and whether the planning commission might engage an individual right away, or if we should wait until the October 22 town gathering. Town priorities are to be set at that gathering and it is likely an individual interested in working on development and planning for town trails will emerge at that gathering. There may even be formation of a trails committee from that gathering. Joe discussed that planning and development of town trails will be a complex task with potentially competing uses. He further added that there are resources available for us to discover legal aspects to public access over private land. He had spoken with someone who was involved in establishing the "Kingdom Trail," a network of biking trails in Burke and will check in with him to see if he will attend the October 22 gathering.

No other business was raised.

No public comment was made.

Future Agenda:

Trails update

October 22 gathering priorities

Outcome of November 6 vote and next steps as result of the vote.

Taste of Montgomery- what are the possibilities to revive the festival

At 6:45 Joe moved to adjourn. Barry seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous vote.