

Minutes

July 10 Planning commission meeting

Present Stephen Major, Bari Shamas, Richard Crocker, Seroya Couch, Sarah Danly,

1. **Call to Order:**  
6:35
2. **Communications and Public Comment: none**
3. **Adjustments to Agenda: 1 min**  
none
4. **Acceptance of Minutes: June meeting**
  - A. **Seroya, moves, Richard seconds passes. Bari and Seroya yes. Richard abstains.**
5. **Unfinished Business (Discussion / Action):**
  - A. Town Plan
    - i. Agriculture review
      - a. Seroya gave an overview - we carefully looked at the goals and actions. Discussion of how to provide resources for farmers. Keep a live page on the town website with active links. Stephen request that we add that Vermont is a Right to Farm State and that as long as farming is done by the state regulation there are no nuisance complaints that could be actionable.  
  
Westminster Meats is now operating under a different name. Trucks in animals from other places, mostly from out west, and local auction markets. They are not operating as a custom meat slaughterhouse.  
  
Vote to send ag section to Mike at WRC. Unanimous
    - ii. Communication and Facilities Chapter 11  
initial look over. This chapter needs a lot of work  
Seroya suggests that policies and recommendations all be at the end  
  
Can the town make it easier for people to use composting toilets and grey water?  
  
Richard will work further on this chapter.  
Take Communications out of title
    - iii. plan for completion tabled
    - iv. economic development tabled

- v. housing: looking at unoccupied unit numbers on the chart. What percent of unoccupied units could be occupied. How do we get accurate numbers? Maybe Mike Mc...could help crunch numbers.

Tax rate for homesteaders is , according to Vermont Digger 1.5566% homesteaders  
non homesteader 1.5966%

adding that information into the document.  
Add cohousing under Housing Policies

Put What Richard created into the Chapter 7

New Business (Discussion / Action):

**B. Selectboard meeting report -**

Stephen recommend that when we finish a section we inform the selectboard so they can look at it.

Policing and ambulance services are entirely up in the air. Not adequate response to problems or presence to help reduce speeding for example.

Emergency services are are work in progress at this time.

Westminster aqueduct society person, is elderly and he wants the town to take it over.

Discussion regarding town buildings, North Westminster (no group is responsible and there is no parking) and Westminster West town hall (friends of WW Town Hall members have keys to it)(across from church) what to do with these town spaces. Westminster West Cemetary has a hurst house, White house next to cemetary is being considered for a grant. to renovate. Town has a cemetary commission with funds for maintaining the cemeteries.

6. **Other Business: Bari Please talk to Michelle about putting chapters in the right place.**
7. **Date of Next Meeting: August. 14, 2023**
8. **Adjournment: Richard moved Seroya seconds all agree.**