

TOWN OF WESTMINSTER
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING (PC)
August 21, 2023

Members Present: Bari Shamas (Chair), Seroya Crouch, Richard Crocker, Michelle Chemlar
Others Present: None.

1. Call to Order: Bari calls meeting to order 6:31pm
2. Communications and Public Comment: None.
3. Adjustments to Agenda: None.
4. Acceptance of Minutes: July 10, 2023, Michelle moves to accept the content of the minutes, pending formal adoption next meeting. Seroya seconds, unanimous.
5. Unfinished Business (Discussion / Action):

Status of Committees:

Richard Crocker and Seroya Crouch would like to resign from the Planning Commission. Discussion around the issues precipitating this decision. No Town Manager, too few members of the Planning Commission: a need for more members and community support. Four people is not enough to complete the work. Suggestion to accept the previous plan as is and move forward.

Town needs a Town Manager to help support the development of a town plan.

Members believe that it is possible to make the Planning Commission be successful, perhaps accessing outside help would make it possible.

To adopt the previous town plan, change the date on the bottom only, not content.

WRC could make that happen. Readoption of old plan needs to be done by October 14

Hearing process is by statute. There needs to be at least one Planning Commission Hearing.

Selectboard is required to have two hearings with a new plan. Richard resigns August 22, 2023.

Therefore, there will no longer be a Planning Commission.

Review of statutes to see if the Westminster Planning Commission can continue with fewer than four members. Information found that a Planning Commission can have no less than 3 members and no more than 9.

Legally the town needs to have a plan in effect by October 14—be that the old plan or a new one.

Discussion that the Planning Commission hearing would be the presentation of the plan to the community and then have two selectboard hearings. May need to complete all the Hearing steps even if readopting.

Question for Mike—can the Town Plan be readopted without these hearings.

Four months limitation by granting party. Perhaps means would not be eligible for a grant in the future. There are monies left over from the existing grant.

Bari will contact Mike tomorrow to answer these questions.

A. Town Plan: Tabled per decision to readopt previous plan.

6. New Business (Discussion / Action):

A. Review Putney Town Plan

Layout great; Pictures good; template is reader friendly.

Maps incorporated in the Plan as opposed to an addendum was helpful.

Are there any goals/plans that would impact Westminster? Plan to work with neighboring towns to assist with the town goal to eliminate fossil fuels for heating by 2050.

Review is scheduled for Thursday August 24 at Putney Friends Meetinghouse; adjustments have been made to the draft.

Westminster comments need to be made by August 29.

Village master plan: recreation master plan.

Planning Commission then read the plan and reviewed.

Seroya moves that the Planning Commission reviewed the town plan and sees no conflicts with Westminster Town Plan. The Westminster Planning Commission looks forward to working with Putney in the future. Richard seconds. Unanimous.

7. Other Business:

A. Westminster news:

8. Date of Next Meeting: September 12, 2023

9. Adjournment: Seroya motions for meeting to be adjourned at 7:29pm. Richard seconds. Unanimous.

Bari thanks Richard and Seroya for their participation in the Planning Commission. Bari is appreciative of all members and their contributions.

Seroya appreciates Richard's service.

Signature of Clerk

Date

Prepared by: Janice Leary-Jones