

Brattleboro Planning Commission

September 9, 2019

Minutes

Planning Commission: Felicity Ratte, Tom Mosakowski, Kathy Urffer, Josh Steele, Jessica Gelter

Excused: Kate Audlin,

Staff: Susan Fillion, Planning Director

A. Meeting called to Order

F. Ratte called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

B. Announcements

S. Fillion announced that a new staff person has been hired for the Planning Services Department and the anticipated start date is October 1. She advised that the Town was awarded a Bicycle and Pedestrian Scoping Grant to look at bicycle lanes from Exit 2 to Main Street. She advised that she has applied for a Climate Adaptation workshop.

C. Public Comments

No public present.

D. Approve Minutes of August 5 and August 14

K. Urffer moved approval of the minutes of August 5 and August 14 with typographical edits; seconded by T. Mosakowski. Pass 5-0.

E. Brattleboro Brownfields Program

a. Status of Funds

S. Fillion reported that all the Hazardous Substance funds have been committed. There is funding remaining for Petroleum assessment.

b. Update on existing sites

There are 2 sites currently being worked on:

- 250 Birge Street – S. Fillion reported that the Corrective Action Plan needs to be finished but the destination of the soils first needs to be identified. Vermont River Conservancy has hired an Environmental Professional so hopefully this will be worked out. One new idea is to over-excavate in some areas and fill in with some of the urban soils. This way they are managed on-site and reduces trucking. There was a discussion of public meetings needed to deal with Act 250 permitting and future uses of the property. There was also discussion of archeological work that still needs to be done.
- Long Falls Paperboard – S. Fillion advised that the Phase II Assessment is currently being conducted. She reported a delay due to issues with the drilling method. S. Fillion advised that the property owner, Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation did receive a \$500,000 cleanup and assessment grant from the US EPA.

F. Downtown Design Plan

a. September – October schedule of events

The Commission reviewed the schedule of events associated with the Downtown Plan. It was noted that the regularly scheduled October 7 meeting would be canceled due to the other meetings around that date.

b. Surveys

The Commission discussed draft public surveys . They questioned what would be learned by the surveys and felt that it was not clear as to what was meant by “public space.” It was noted that there is a lot of information out there about how people feel about downtown. They felt that a more positive approach to the questions, such as “Which places would e.g., have a cup a coffee, talk with friends, etc. would be more constructive. The Commission felt that a map could be helpful, felt strongly that there should only be 1 survey, and suggested naming parks and parking lots specifically.

c. Additional outreach

The Commission recommended doing outreach with the following: Youth Services, Groundworks, Turning Point, high school students, Insight Photography, Center for Children, Putney School students, and the library.

G. Potential Land Use Regulation Amendments

No discussion or action taken.

H. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m. on a vote of 5-0. K. Urffer moved adjournment and J. Gelter seconded.