

Town of Guilford

Planning Commission Meeting Notes—draft

6:30 pm Monday July 15, 2019 at the Guilford Town Office

PC members present: Harry Evans, Michelle Frehsee, Jackie Gaines, Thayer Tomlinson, Jethro Eaton, Nathanael Matthesian

Call to order: 6:33pm

Recognition of Public: Sara Coffey and Elly Majonen

Business

1. Update from Sara Coffey. Sara provided an update on her work in Montpelier as the Guilford and Vernon representative.
 - a. She noted that the legislature meets January – May and is now in the off-session. During this off-season time, she will pull together a rural caucus tour of the southern part of the state to meet with residents around the rural economy. Her objective is to bring more attention to the southern part of the state and the rural counties. This meeting will likely be in early October and will focus on 5 things: forest, recreation, food manufacturing, agriculture and creative economies.
 - i. The PC had a discussion on how to increase the economic sustainability of dairy farming with price of milk declining.
 - b. Sara serves on the infrastructure committee and focuses on a number of issues through this work such as corrections policy/criminal justice reform and infrastructure. One of the things she will be working on is convening groups who can educate her work with criminal justice reform.
 - c. Sara is also focusing on increasing broadband connections and improved cell service; she is hopeful that legislation passed this session will lead to increased broadband. Rural broadband will need to be community-driven and they are looking to create a new position at the public service board to focus on this issue. The Windham regional Commission is also looking at this issue; for those interested in broadband, there is a contact at SEVTbroadband@gmail.com.
 - i. There was a discussion with the PC on 5G and the possible health effects; Sara noted that the study includes research on 5G and health (however noted that 5G is likely not a technology that is applicable for rural areas).
 - d. Sweet Pond update: The Sweet Pond Committee and Conservation Committee are managing the dam rebuild. The work to replace the dam will be done by end September so the pond can fill. Phil Franklin initially built the dam (during 1700s; he lived from 1707 – 1797); Sara noted that the dam will be named after him. Since this is a state park, this will be done through their process and the committees will work with the state to determine making this a state marker. Sara asked if the Historical Society might provide background and text for the marker (there is room for 765 characters total). Michelle offered to help work on the history.

2. Reminder of joint August 26 SelectBoard/PC meeting on planning for Guilford growth; this will be August 26, 6:30pm at the Town Office. Chris Campany from WRC will also attend. This will be the Planning Commission meeting for the month of August and the update to the SB.
3. Conservation Commission meeting update: Jethro noted that he attended the recent meeting to provide an update on the PC; they spoke about the Handbook. The Conservation Commission members are interested in helping draft portions of the document. Linda Lembke could be a great connection for us in terms of talking with her on the Handbook.
4. The PC set a date for Handbook Meeting—will plan to hold meeting Monday, August 19 at 6:30pm. Michelle will send an email to all interested parties.
5. Review and Discuss Town Plan
 - a. Infrastructure:
 - i. Discussed how climate impacts may alter population growth in the Town.
 - ii. Thayer noted that Guilford is one of three towns that signed the We Are Still In pledge. We should communicate with the Guilford Conservation Commission on addressing this (and the Guilford Energy Committee).
 - iii. Waste Management section: Jethro will speak with Cheryl Franklin about correctly updating the section to add in new information on Act 148 and enforced composting.
 - iv. Michelle asked about who our Town Health Officer is—it is Richard Davis.
 - v. Guilford is required to have a Town Constable but does not currently have one. This position requires a significant amount of training and pays very little.
 - vi. Elly suggested we consider including (at the end of the town plan) a matrix/checklist that shows actions for each commission and committee within the town, so it is clear what each commission and committee is responsible for. Also include how a community person can participate in these issues.
 - vii. Ask Recreation Commission to attend the Sept 16 PC meeting to help us bring the Recreation section up to date.
 - b. Next meeting (September 16)—PC members should have Economy and Business reviewed as well as Recreation. Elly asked about including childcare under Economy and Business and will bring text for this section to our next meeting.
6. The Recreation Commission is working on a grant proposal to the state's community building grant to pay for the Play Scape to get the driveway done, construct a loop walking trail, and make the space meet insurance regulations. Michelle will write a letter of support and asked the PC members for permission to note that she is the chair of the PC. Jethro made a motion that Michelle can state that she is the PC chair; Thayer seconded. All voted in favor.

Communications: 2 notifications from BDCC and SEVEDs.

Close of Meeting: 8:07pm