

Townshend Planning Commission
Minutes
March, 24 2021 via Zoom

Present: John Evans, Bob DeSiervo, Brandon Canevari, and Andrew Snelling

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** Canevari moved to accept the minutes of March 10th, 2021 with the addition of underlining and a colon to the Correspondence section. The motion was seconded by DeSiervo and carried unanimously.
- 3. Additions and Deletions:**
- 4. Members of the Public:**
- 5. Correspondence:** SeVEDS announcement and invitation: 2021 Southern Vermont Economic Summit May 12-14.
- 6. Old Business:**

Act 174 Energy Element: The Commission edited section 5 of the energy element. Snelling will look up “Safe Routes to School” program and DeSiervo will investigate feasibility of low impact hydro power. Snelling will update the draft including the recent edits for further review at the next meeting.

Capital Budgeting review of Town Hall: Martin is reviewing the Weisner report and Snelling will look at it next.

West Townshend VCD: Canevari updated the Commission on the recent presentation to the Select Board. The Select Board approved the Planning Commission submitting a VCD application for West Townshend. Canevari has begun collecting information on community events and will contact WRC about preparing the map of the VCD boundaries.

Act 171: Nothing to report

DVCUD Select Board Presentation: Snelling reported on the presentation by Jane Douglas about the Deerfield Valley Communications Union District. DVCUD has grown in the last year and now has 17 member towns in Windham County. Douglas encouraged the Select Board to join DVCUD. The Select Board deferred action on the request to join the DVCUD.
- 7. New Business:**

Townshend Flood Plain Bylaw: Snelling reviewed the background of the bylaw and pointed out that the last version was from 2007. The bylaw is a requirement for the residents in Townshend to participate in the FEMA flood insurance

program. The Townshend dam provides substantial flood protection on the West River and the Army Corp of Engineers owns much of the land along the river above the dam which restricts any development in that area. However, there are Federal flood zones along the West River and on Mill Brook through Harmonyville. The bylaw requires a Flood Plain Administrator and a Board of Adjustment. The Select Board is currently looking for candidates for these positions. DeSiervo nominated for consideration by the Select Board, Andrew Snelling for the position of Flood Plain Administrator. Evans seconded the motion which was carried with Snelling abstaining. Snelling clarified that the Flood Plain Administrator is not eligible to serve on the Board of Adjustment. Snelling then made a motion to recommend to the Select Board that all eligible members of the Planning Commission be appointed as members of the Board of Adjustment. Evans seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- 8. **Other Business:** none
- 9. **Meeting Schedule:** Regular Meeting: April 14, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting: April, 28, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.
- 10. **Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman, Evans adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Snelling