

**Townshend Planning Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**May 12, 2021 via Zoom**

**Present:** John Evans, Bob DeSiervo, Liza Martin and Andrew Snelling

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** Evans moved to accept the minutes of April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as submitted. The motion was seconded by DeSiervo and carried unanimously.
- 3. Additions and Deletions:** Snelling requested adding a discussion about Bike path and Sidewalks under New Business. There were no objections to the addition.
- 4. Members of the Public:** none
- 5. Correspondence:** no new correspondence
- 6. Old Business:**

Capital Budgeting Review of Town Hall: DeSiervo reported that he had spoken with Geoff Metcalfe of Keefe & Wesner. He reported that Wesner retired last year. Metcalfe suggested a meeting to discuss the framework of a potential project. DeSiervo will look into meeting with Metcalfe in Bennington to look at updating the outstanding parts of the project and confirming the ADA requirements. Snelling mentioned that expanding the vault space was a key aspect of the plan but a recent conversation with the Town Clerk had called into question whether that was still a critical need. There was a discussion on where to locate the funds to pay for an update of the Wesner report and that Select Board approval will be required to move forward. DeSiervo made a motion to ask the Select Board to allocate funds to update the Wesner report to keep the Town Hall functional and in compliance for the next fifty years. Evans seconded the motion which passed. DeSiervo offered to present the request and the report to the Select Board but will be out of town on May 25<sup>th</sup>, so it may be the June meeting.

West Townshend VCD: Canevari was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written report on his progress which Snelling read. Canevari has been in touch with Amore regarding the possible boundaries and he had questions concerning the commercial nature of some of the buildings. Canevari has a meeting scheduled with Ron Millette to get input on Calvary Chapel community events.

Act 174 Energy Element: Snelling shared that he was able to

get the maps included in the document with assistance from Jeff Nugent and that he has added several tables to better present the conservation objectives. DeSiervo said that he has an email from Trout's Unlimited on dams but still has more research to do on micro-hydro.

**7. New Business:**

Bike Path and Sidewalks: Snelling stated that he had received a response from Marc Pickering at Vtrans that a Road Safety Audit Report (RSAR) was likely not appropriate along Rt. 30 because they don't typically do bike paths on roads with 50 mpg speed limits. An audit for Rt. 35 might make sense but the likely recommendations would be better speed control, and pursuing a sidewalk feasibility study. He referred the Commission to grants available through Windham Regional. Snelling will follow up for clarification.

**8. Other Business:**

Select Board Update: Snelling informed the Commission that the Select Board had nominated Joe Winrich as the Flood Plan Administrator and appointed the eligible members of the Planning Commission as the Board of Adjustment

DVFiber DeSiervo reported on the recent annual meeting of the Deer Valley Communication Union District where Townshend was voted in as the 23<sup>rd</sup> town in the district. He explained that DVFiber is making substantial progress and is in the process of reviewing vendor responses to the RFP on designing, building and operating the proposed network.

**9. Meeting Schedule:**

Regular Meeting: May 26, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting: June 9, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.

*Weather permitting to be in person at the Gazebo*

**10. Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman, Evans adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrew Snelling