

Minutes of the St. Albans City Planning Commission
St. Albans City Hall
100 North Main St. St. Albans, VT
Meeting Date: December 21, 2015

DRAFT

Meeting Called To Order At: 6:00pm by Chris Dermody, Chair.

PC Members	Present	Absent
Chris Dermody, Chair	x	
Jackie DesLauriers	x	
David Barber, V. Chair	x	
Michael Gawne	x	
Tom Murphy		x

Staff Present:

Chip Sawyer, Director of Planning & Development
Robin Morrill, Minute Taker

Public Present:

Stan Braden
Jeff Young

AGENDA

1. Open Meeting
 - a. Discuss any additions or deletions to agenda. None

2. City Plan - Downtown and the Historic District
 - a. Discuss Goals -

Discussions on the following:

What are we proud of:

Board members and members of the public provided the following comments: The largest municipal park in the state of Vermont, the City's general appearance, the progress of the streetscapes and the impact that it has had on Downtown, the City's walkability, the Farmers' Market, historic stock, restoration of the fountain in Taylor Park.

What do we want to see:

Board members and members of the public provided the following comments: Consistent funding for the fountain and trees maintenance, all Downtown Storefronts to be occupied, consistency in the maintenance of the streets and sidewalks, Event consistency which will promote visitors, preservation of the Historic stock, locals eating lunches downtown, the upper

stories of Downtown being ADA accessible, the return of the Montrealer, Clean attractive gateways, new public safety facility, calendar of events, services on the inner side of the core block, any significant development in the Downtown district to conform to a design in which it would not distract from or be detrimental to the City's historic representation.

What do we want visitors to remember:

Board members and members of the public provided the following comments: Beauty and walkability of the City, a sense of community and a community that works together, a friendly and welcoming atmosphere, the City's proximity to the lake and skiing, a safe place to be, landscaping trees/decorations etc., cleanliness, services and eateries available, historic stock,

b. Review 2012 Plan Goals and Policies - C. Sawyer gave a brief overview on how the designated downtown came into existence as well as the designation of the growth center and how these in turn affect the Master Plan. Topics briefly discussed are as follows: consolidation of policies, soliciting a good mix of merchants for the downtown district, the fostering of a continual positive relationship between the residents and the merchants, business packets for new merchants/building owners etc.

c. Review Proposed Design Standards - C. Dermody suggested tabling the item. There was opposition to tabling the item by M Gawne and D. Barber. D. Barber discussed building heights in the Downtown District, and was adamant about 2 story building minimum where both stories are occupied, also Mr. Barber would like corrugated metal siding removed from the acceptable products list. C. Sawyer gave an overview of how the Design Standards came to be what it is today including the procedural flow. The following topics were briefly discussed: gateway approaches, standards differences from one side of a street to the opposite side due to district designation. Discussion of application language and Design Review triggers.

d. Discuss next steps - no discussion

3. Discuss route 7 Liability Connection Project - brief discussion regarding the construction schedule for this project in conjunction with the Lake/Federal St. project.

a. authorize chair to sign letter of support for grant application - D&V

Motion by Michael Gawne to authorize the Planning Commission Chair to sign a letter of support for Grant application, second by Jackie DesLauriers with all in favor

b. Project Steering Committee designee - D&V

Motion by Michael Gawne to appoint a designee to sit on the steering committee in the near future, second by Jackie DesLauriers with all in favor.

4. Other Business -

a. Approval of minutes - D&V

Motion by Michael Gawne to approve the minutes of November 16, 2105 second by Jackie DesLauriers with all in favor.

b. Other - Subsequent to the reading of item 1 on this agenda, C. Dermody informed the board and members of the public present that this is his last meeting as Chairperson and that he would not seek another term.

c. Questions & Clarifications from Commission members on issues presented. NONE

5. Public Comment - NONE:

Motion to Adjourn at 8:10 pm by D. Barber, second by Jackie DesLauriers with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Morrill
Minute Taker