

**Minutes of the St. Albans City Planning Commission**

**St. Albans City Hall**

**100 North Main Street St. Albans, VT**

**Meeting Date December 19, 2016, 5:30 PM**

***Approved January 16, 2017***

**Planning Commission Members**

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
David Barber, Chair		x
Jackie DesLauriers, V. Chair	x	
Michael Gawne	x	
Stan Bradeen	x	
Amy Paradis, Alt	x	

**Staff Present**

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

**Public Present:** Stacy Carpenter, John Hoy, Amy Brewer, Jeremy Read & Beth Crane

**AGENDA**

**1. Open Meeting: Meeting called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Jackie DesLauriers, V. Chair.**

a. Discuss additions or deletions to agenda. No additions or deletions. J. DesLauriers discussed changing the order of agenda items. Item #4 to be discussed before Item #2.

2. Approval of Minutes

**Motion by Michael Gawne, to approve the Minutes of November 21, 2016, second by Stan Bradeen, with all in favor.**

3. Appoint representative to Taylor Park master planning steering committee.

**Stan Bradeen & Amy Paradis have volunteered to be selected as representatives to the Taylor Park master planning steering committee, receiving consensual approval from board members present.**

4. *City Plan* discussion- after input from public present: (see public comment below) C. Sawyer reviewed the City Plan, it's necessity, purpose and why public feedback/input is so valuable in the process of writing the plan.

When discussing what the public present was most proud of in the City of St. Albans, comments were as follows:

A. Brewer discussed how inviting the City is and praised its walkability and bikeability.

B. Crane-Finds the City energizing, feels the changes over the past few years are beautiful, noticeable increase in tourism, and loves the fact that there has been a ground swell of places for young people to gather.

J. Hoy- The redevelopment of the back of the Main St. core block with the Parking Garage and the Hotel has created a much safer atmosphere than prior to development.

S. Carpenter – The redevelopment is amazing and beautiful. The effort put into the current draft of the City Plan is greatly appreciated and she feels that great effort has been put into the plan even in its draft form.

When discussing what more the public present would like to see in the City of St. Albans, comments were as follows:

J. Reed – Bike paths & Trails for bicycles and pedestrians which would not only be used by residents but also be an attraction for tourists and hotel patrons. Suggested a bike/pedestrian path to Hard’Ack, Hathaway Point, Burton’s Island etc. With attractions such as these, there could be a possibility of a ferry from Canada bringing folks for recreation which would benefit both the City and Town of St. Albans.

A. Brewer – Suggested a “safe zone” regarding alcohol & tobacco advertising exposure that is visible from areas where youth presence is prevalent. Ie: schools & playgrounds etc.

When discussing what the public present would like visitors to the community to remember, comments were as follows:

J. Hoy – Would like visitors to leave with a positive experience and view of the community.

S. Carpenter – A feeling of safety

B. Crane – The visibility of community members.

J. Reed – Attractions/things to do.

a. Review draft plan text/goals/policies. C. Sawyer reviewed the draft as edited. Additional edits and language modification were made.

## 5. Other Business

a. Discuss January 2016 meeting date.

Planning Commission meeting dates for January and February are as follows: 1-16-17 & 2-27-17

b. Stebbins-Catherine Planning Project Update- C. Sawyer stated that there would be a public meeting January 31, 2017 at City Hall, time to be announced at a later date.

c. Update on board appointments- M. Gawne, and David Barber have re-applied, Amy Paradis has applied for a full seat, and a new applicant, Luke Richter has applied, and all applicants will meet before City Council on January 9, 2017.

d. Planning & Development Update – There will be a Board Celebration at City Hall on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. RSVP to Chip Sawyer a.s.a.p. if attending.

e. Other – The front entrance amendment went before the City Council and passed it striking language preventing a garage from being prominent to the front entrance and retained language that said the garage could not distract from the front entrance.

6. Public Comment no: public comment:

**Motion to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. by Amy Paradis, second by Stan Bradeen, with all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Morrill

Minute Taker