



Town of Barnard, Vermont

Chartered July 17, 1761

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BARNARD PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES - DRAFT

JANUARY 23, 2024

Present: Steve Cota (Chair), Kate Reeves (Vice Chair), Greyling VanAlstyne, Carin Park, Ed Jodice

Also Present: Richard Lancaster (Selectman), Rob Ramrath (Administrative Officer)

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM.

2. Review agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

3. Public comment

There were no public comments.

4. Approve Minutes of November 13, 2023

The minutes were approved.

5. Scenic Ridgeline Subcommittee Update

Ed reviewed progress to date. He discussed a high-level work plan and budget put forth by the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC). This work would go into a detailed study of Barnard's Ridgelines, resulting in maps and delineated buffer areas. Sources of funds were discussed, including the funds detailed in Item 6 below. Rob took an action item to forecast available funds for the work in the FY24 Planning Commission budget. The subcommittee will meet to further study other municipal ridgeline zoning regulations and create a rough outline of a proposed approach for Barnard. The subcommittee will also meet with TRORC to form a detailed work plan and budget for their study. Both will be presented to the full Planning Commission at the next meeting.

6. FY 2025 Budget

Rob reported that the municipal planning grant intended to fund zoning regulation revisions was not awarded. He shared that the Selectboard placed \$6,000. for consulting assistance in the Planning Commission budget for this purpose. The Selectboard recommended that the Planning Commission concentrate on the zoning areas of ridgeline/hillside development and short-term rentals. The Planning Commission discussed this and agreed this would be a reasonable approach.

7. Incorporation of Tactical Basin Plan into Draft 2024 Town Plan

The Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission recommended that our draft 2024 town plan align with the state basin plan. The Commission suggested language to be included in the draft 2024 town plan. The Planning Commission voted to adopt the language for inclusion in the draft 2024 town plan.

8. Process & Schedule Draft 2024 Town Plan Submission to Selectboard

Note: There will be a future, warned Selectboard meeting specifically to discuss the adoption of the Draft 2024 Town Plan.

Rob reviewed the process for submitting the draft 2024 town plan to the Selectboard for final adoption. The Planning Commission voted to submit the Draft 2024 Town Plan to the Selectboard on their February 7, 2024 meeting.

9. Other business

Steve shared that it was important to pursue the topic of potential regulation of short-term rentals (STR) in Barnard. He was particularly concerned with absentee investors purchasing properties for STR and renting them year-round, never to be occupied by an owner. Steve suggested that a subcommittee approach would be the best way to make progress. The Planning Commission directed Rob to place a general request for member volunteers in on the listserv and Barnard Mailing List.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Minutes prepared by Rob Ramrath, Administrative Officer. All votes unanimous unless otherwise indicated.