



**TOWN OF STOWE
PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2024**

The Town of Stowe Planning Commission held a meeting on **Monday March 18, 2024**, starting at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Stowe Town Office with remote participation via Zoom. The meeting began at 5:30 pm. Members present included Mila Lonetto, Bob Davison, Chuck Ebel, Heather Snyder, Jill Anne, John Muldoon, Brian Hamor, and Neil Percy. Staff Sarah McShane was present.

The meeting was called to order by Chair M.Lonetto at approximately 5:30 pm.

Adjustments to the Agenda & Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

None

Review Prior Meeting Minutes [03/04/2024]

C.Ebel motioned to approve the meeting minutes from March 4th. J.Muldoon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Stowe Town Plan Update

Members briefly discussed the engagement poster from Town Meeting Day and the public comments received. Chair M.Lonetto asked the Commission how they'd prefer to begin reviewing the plan and suggested for the Commission members each to provide comments on the elements/chapters of the plan. Staff provided a brief presentation on the preliminary steps of updating the plan. Members discussed possibly reformatting the plan to relocate the detailed statistical and historical information as appendixes and include a brief executive summary at the beginning of the plan. Members discussed group decision-making and how the Commission will make decisions together throughout the update process. Members discussed how to make the plan accountable and ensure decisions are made in accordance with the vision and goals of the plan. Staff encouraged the Commission to consider what the final plan product should look like and feel like and whether the vision statement should be updated, renewed, or drafted anew. Members discussed the statistics within the plan and whether data is missing that will be informative in the updated plan. Members discussed the different potential community partners, places where people gather, and opportunities to engage the community.

Members discussed the structure/format of the existing plan. N.Percy shared that he likes the current structure; he suggested it should concisely describe where we were as a community, where we are, and where we want to be. He wondered how Stowe's voter participation compared to other Vermont communities. M.Lonetto suggested that maybe the early chapters could be condensed in a timeline or executive summary and have the in-depth history as an appendix. Members discussed how to make the implementation of the plan more accountable. B.Davison suggested that the Commission will need to focus on evaluating Act 47, increased density, and possible rezoning districts to comply. H.Snyder suggested preparing a summary of Act 47 to better understand areas where the state wants municipalities to grow – re-imagining what it means to be an area served by water and sewer. J.Muldoon suggested preparing a 1-page call to action requesting community input. Members brainstormed identified community partners.

Stowe Mountain Resort/Vail
Trapp Family Lodge
Stowe Area Association
Stowe Land Trust
Stowe Electric Department

Energy Committee
Stowe Trails Partnership
Lamoille Housing Partnership
Stowe Vibrancy
Stowe Theatre Guild

Realtors
Rotary Club
Stowe School Board
Local employers
Restaurant owners
AIG/Spruce Peak
Municipal Departments
Recreation groups
Event/Festival groups (car show, farmers market,
tango festival etc.)
Contractors/Developers
VT Short-term Rental Alliance
Protect our Wildlife

Farmers & Percy Family
Stowe Art Center
Library
Stowe Music Center
Childcare Centers
Parks & Recreation
LCPC
ACCD/Planning Designation Programs
Broadband Internet
Lamoille County Mental Health
Mountain Road Merchants
Beer/Cannabis Industry
Student Leadership Teams

Members discussed additional data that might be helpful to include. N.Percy suggested including data from short-term rentals, the percentage of second homes over the years, etc. Members discussed data that displays trends, the number of dwellings constructed, population growth, etc., percentage of affordable housing units, percentage of poverty and homelessness, food insecurity, workforce/labor shortage information on the number of jobs, number of unemployed, aging populations, etc. Staff and LCPC can research the data needs discussed and follow-up with the Commission at a later meeting.

Staff explained that consultant Rebecca Stone is planning on zooming in to the next meeting on April 1st. It is anticipated that she will have a proposed project name(s)/themes for the Commission to consider, a logo, and describe different engagement tools and ideas for the Commission to consider. C.Ebel reported that he will not be able to attend the next meeting.

Updates/Correspondence/Other Business

None

Review Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Next PC Meeting Date- 4/1/2024

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah McShane, Planning & Zoning Director