

Planning Commission

Town of Weston

PO Box 98

Weston, VT 05161-0098

Minutes of Meeting, August 8, 2022

Present: Lexi Young, Geof Brown, and Annie Fuji'i.

Absent: Kim Price

The following items are on the agenda:

1. Approve Minutes
2. Additions/Changes to the Agenda
3. Insert Announcement
4. Review of Training Notes 7/14/22 and Next Steps, w/John Bennet, WRC
5. Town Plan Revision-Discussion
6. New and Old Business
7. Adjourn

Lexi Young declares a PC quorum and calls the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

1. Approve minutes.
No minutes prepared to approve. Kim Price will distribute draft meeting minutes from March, April, May, and July of 2022 to all commission members for review. Minutes to be approved at the next regularly scheduled meeting, September 5, 2022.
2. Additions/Changes to the Agenda.
Annie requested a review of changes coming out of open meeting law – Geof proposed that is covered under “New Business” agenda item #6 – all agreed.
Geof requested that agenda item #3 be removed as the insert announcement from the PC to the town was already published last week – all agreed.
3. Review of Training Notes 7/14/22 and Next Steps, w/John Bennet, WRC.
Geof requests that we review specific line items from the notes and listed several. He then suggested that we focus on #3 which in short suggests that while the town plan is pursued by the PC, the PC can focus on critical issues with zoning that need to be addressed and can be done in a short window of time – 6 months at the most.

Geof then put forward a motion that the PC will seek discrete and specific needs from the DRB relative to zoning regulation conflicts and needs and the PC will consider and endeavor to address them. Annie seconded the motion and after substantive discussion, the motion was passed.

During the discussion, Annie and Deb Granquist discussed the significant issues facing the DRB with issues with the regulations including antiquated subdivision regulations (written in 1970), lack of definitions and specificity around zoning language (items mentioned were setbacks, screening, commercial and residential uses). Based on this Deb suggested a meeting of the DRB and PC to review the concerns. Based on this, Geof put forward a motion to seek a joint meeting of the DRB and PC in the next several months to promote dialogue and collaboration and to understand what is needed in terms of zoning changes. Annie seconded and with no discussion, motion was approved.

Lexi put a motion forward, based on a recommendation by John Bennet, that the PC pursue a Municipal Planning Grant to support the updating of the town plan. Annie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with no discussion. As a Select Board vote is required to pursue a grant, it was agreed that Annie would present the request to the Select Board at their meeting on Wednesday.

Relative to engaging John Bennet to support the writing of the grant, Lexi indicated that he will reach out to him to discuss the terms of such an engagement. Annie requested that Lexi also ask for examples of contracts from the WRC to see what types of services they offer.

4. Town Plan Revision-Discussion.

John Bennett had suggested that each PC member review the Town Plan Assessment Form as a precursor to beginning to work on the full town plan. As a result, it was agreed that the PC would meet in two weeks to collectively go through the form after each member had done so independently. Geof indicated he will plan the meeting and get the notice out to Natalie who will post it. It will also be a different zoom number so that the meeting can happen remotely for all participants.

Geof reviewed the document that was issued with the taxes to the taxpayers "The Planning Commission Needs Your Input". Geof put forward a motion that he will create a proposed schedule to "organize every other planning meeting to discuss and consider changes to one or two sections of the town <plan> at a time", and that he will provide that to be discussed and reviewed at the next meeting. Annie seconded and it was unanimously approved.

5. New and Old Business.

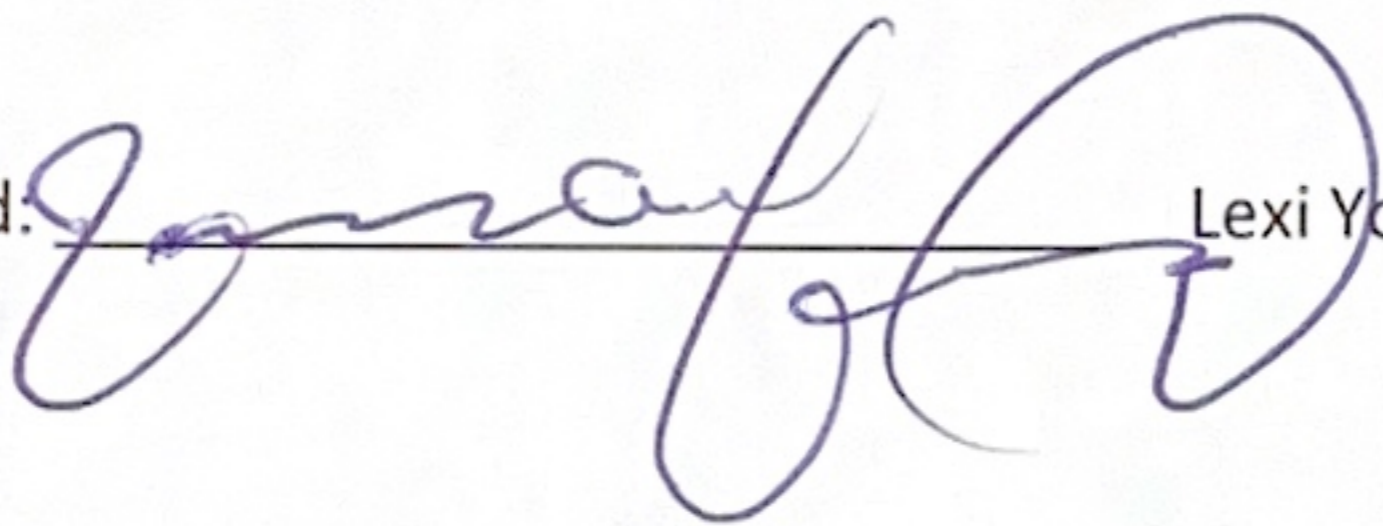
Annie reviewed – relative to the open meeting law – that minutes have to be posted in 5 days – 10 days was an extension during the pandemic that is no longer in effect.

In addition, regular meeting agenda's need to be posted 48 hours in advance, 24 hours for special meetings.

Finally, Annie pointed out that Natalie will post the minutes on line and in paper. Natalie was present for this meeting as a guest.

6. Adjourn.

Lexi Young motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm, motion passes unanimously.

Approved:  Lexi Young, Chair

Date 11/7/22

Submitted:  Geof Brown, Acting Secretary

Date 11/7/22