

Town of Peacham Planning Commission

Tues, Feb 21, 2023 07:00 PM

DRAFT MINUTES

All participants joined via Zoom link.

Present: Anna Rubin, Adam Dobson, William Kempton, Marilyn Magnus, Katherine Siner, Bob Hansen (Zoning Administrator), Alfred Dedam (Selectboard member), Jake Thomas (Peacham Community Housing)

Anna called the meeting to order at 7:01. Participants introduced themselves and welcomed Katherine Siner as a new Planning Commission member.

Anna proposed changing the date of regular monthly meetings to the third Tuesday of each month in order to avoid overlap with Peacham Community Housing meetings. PC members discussed and approved this change.

Adam submitted draft minutes of the January 2023 meeting, which were approved.

There was no public comment. Marilyn suggested that Barry Lawson would speak about the Peacham Congregational Church at the March PC meeting.

Marilyn spoke with Bruce Maclean, who had resigned from the PC in January. He mentioned a lack of accomplishments and enforcement mechanisms as weaknesses in the Planning Commission. He expressed interest in the themes of housing and preserving Peacham's open landscape.

Adam and Will addressed preliminary ideas about drafting a Fireworks Ordinance. Discussion followed regarding the need for such an ordinance, as the state has already made all unpermitted fireworks illegal. The discussion broadened to consideration of a noise ordinance, and Alfred expressed concern that he and possibly others on the Selectboard would not look favorably on a broad ordinance that could be misused. Bob considered safety issues with regard to fireworks. Adam and Will agreed to consult with the resident at Peacham Pond who brought this issue to the Planning Commission.

Anna reported that she has contacted Brandy Saxton of Place Sense VT and will meet with her on Thurs to discuss the Bylaw Modernization project. This work will review the current bylaws to resolve inconsistencies and update language to align with the current Town Plan and State regulations. Jake suggested that the greatest impediment to new development is wastewater treatment. There was conversation around how existing buildings could be renovated to meet new needs.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.