

APPROVED MINUTES
Town of Peacham Planning Commission
Tues, March 21, 2023 7:00 PM

Present: Adam Dobson, William Kempton, Katherine Siner, Anna Rubin, Bob Hanson (Zoning Administrator)

Public: David Stauffer, Mark Milazzo

Anna called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Anna mentioned that the Planning Commission had received correspondence from the Town of Ryegate Planning & Zoning Commission regarding a proposed amendment to the Ryegate Town Plan to include solar siting standards. Bob suggested that the Peacham PC might consider similar action at some time.

Minutes from the February 2023 meeting were approved without changes.

Public comment: David Stauffer was interested in the discussions. Mark Milazzo wanted to offer background and support for a Fireworks ordinance.

Anna mentioned 2 messages received from From Laurie Kozar:

1. **Hazard Mitigation Funding** Flood Resilient Communities Fund: Eligible projects include flood-vulnerable property buyouts, floodplain restoration, and buffer plantings.
2. **Municipal Energy Resilience Program** - Community Capacity Building Mini-Grants. The first of many opportunities in this program. These grants provide up to \$4,000 to support energy resilience community capacity building.

PC members discussed needs and capacity. Anna suggested further conversations with the Peacham Energy Committee regarding the MERP mini-grants.

Adam and Will opened a discussion about a proposed fireworks ordinance. There is interest in working with the Selectboard to understand any concerns. Adam suggested developing a specific proposal to encourage feedback from Selectboard members. Discussion:

Mark: fireworks are illegal in VT, but they are sold. Get around law: you have to say you're going to hire someone to come in and set them off. When they are set off after 11:00 PM they are a noise disturbance. There is also a litter problem. Would like to see the fire dept approve permits. Adam: what about enforcement? Do you call police/sheriff? What's your hope? Mark: I would like to raise awareness and educate residents. The Peacham Pond Association could help spread the word. Adam: In East Montpelier, are permits granted upon request? Will: This issue may take some back & forth with selectboard. If there is no enforcement mechanism, Selectboard members will be reluctant. It might be helpful to have meeting with selectboard and fire chief. Katherine: required to have a burn permit. Approval is granted within a limited time with input from the fire dept. Possible to set up meeting with

Jeff Berwick to get his thoughts. Mark: E Montpelier enforcement by town (law enforcement). Adam: draft proposal, talk with Jeff Berwick, and solicit feedback from E.Montpelier, then go to selectboard. Will: can approach Jeff Berwick.

Anna mentioned the Scope of Work submitted by Place Sense for the Bylaw Modernization project includes 5 public meetings. She will distribute the proposed contract. There was discussion about strategies to support changes that overcome inconsistencies in Peacham's current Bylaws. Anna suggested anyone who wants to comment on the proposed contract could send an email before next week, so the contract could be signed by the Town Clerk and the consultants could be engaged.

8:00 adjourn