

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Monthly MEETING**  
**Town of Peacham Planning Commission**

**Tues, June 13, 2023 07:00 PM**

**via Zoom**

**Present: Adam Dobson, Katherine Siner, Marilyn Magnus, Bob Hansen, Anna Rubin**

**Public: Mark Millazo**

Anna called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

Minutes from the May 2023 meeting were approved.

Marilyn M. called attention to a book that was recommended by VT Coverts: Natures Best Hope by Douglas W. Tallamy. "Nature's Best Hope shows how homeowners everywhere can turn their yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats." Marilyn said the book offers valuable suggestions.

Anna R. reported that Rod Francis and Brandy Saxton of PlaceSense, the consultants who are working on the Bylaw Modernization project, have been hired by Danville and St. Johnsbury for similar projects in those towns. Coordinating the bylaws will help our communities communicate more effectively and could lead to great collaboration to help people find housing, transportation, and work. A joint meeting of the Peacham and Danville Planning Commissions will be part of the Danville project. Rod and Brandy will visit Peacham in August for an on site assessment of our village.

Anna R. reported that the Planning Commission has been invited to update the Selectboard on recent work on July 19. All members are encouraged to attend.

Noise Ordinance: PC members discussed the impact of an ordinance that sets parameters around acceptable noise levels and hours. This approach would take into account the desire to encourage and support local businesses as well as the peaceful enjoyment of a home in Peacham. There was discussion about whether our village centers should be considered economic hubs, where "good" noise is part of the experience of a more densely populated neighborhood, or quiet communities. This conversation will continue.

Fireworks Ordinance: PC members and Mark M. discussed options to discourage late-night fireworks and fireworks that are not set off by a licensed operator. The discussion acknowledged that late-night fireworks and fireworks that are set off without a licensed operator are illegal under VT State law, however this law is not enforced. Options for better enforcement were considered, but they would be difficult to enact. While PC members agree with Mark that late-night fireworks and fireworks set off without a licensed operator are disturbing and illegal, the PC was unable to come up with a strategy that would lead to a successful resolution of this issue. It is a concern that can be brought to the Selectboard for guidance.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.