

PLANNING COMMISSION  
Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016  
6:00 pm

The meeting was brought to order at 6:00pm with the following members present: Forrest Hicks, Inger Strom-Henriksen, Susan Bailey and Priscilla Margola.

The Job Description for the Zoning Administrator has been advertised in the Deerfield Valley News and The Bennington Banner. Once an application is received it is suggested that the applicant receive the full job description available in the Town Office before being interviewed.

Before Mr. Klump left, he cited much interference from Larry Hopkins, causing him to leave. Much pressure was put on Jason to pursue a list from Mr. Hopkins and clear up the backlog of many land parcels. The Select board was working with Jason as he did his best to resolve the many issues. Jason also had criticism of the DRB board stating procedures were not being followed correctly. Since Jason never explained more fully his statement it is not clear on what he was referring to. Training procedures and processes are well defined for the DRB and training is available for new or alternate members of the board. Training is also available for the Zoning Administrator, although Jason did not attend any sessions.

Several articles have been written about Dutch Hill and the possibility of it being fully developed into a cross-country ski area, with trails for snowshoeing, hiking, biking. As we are working on our Town Plan it was felt that the importance of it should be added to our Town Plan. Many years ago, it was a viable ski area, but the lack of abundant natural snow and no snow guns available at that time put an end to the area. It was closed, but renewed interest in the area is evident and the possibility of it being reactivated and developed on U.S. Forest land is encouraging and is projected to occur in the next 3-5 years. A suggestion was made to have a plaque made up describing Dutch Hill and when it was created for all to see. Also, handouts could be given to those using the site. The Planning Commissioners expressed a desire to meet with the Forest Ranger working on this project so we will have a better idea of the total project and time frame. Chair will contact and set up a spring meeting.

The completed minutes from October 20<sup>th</sup> were approved with a Motion by Inger and seconded by Priscilla, they will be put in the book and given to Becky to put on the Planning Commission web site. Put the minutes for February, March, April into the book and notify Becky.

A new business is in town, a hairdresser whose shop is in the Berard building with a sign out in front. The windmill projects are on track and in the process of being constructed at the site.

Next, we discussed Chapter 5 of the Town Plan-Natural Resources. We have several areas that are left in their natural state. The area around Howe Pond supplies Readsboro with water. Care should be taken to maintain this land surrounding the Pond.

We still have several chapters to go over in the Town Plan and time is short. We will plan two meetings a month for February, March and April, 2017.

Hearing no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm with a Motion by Inger and seconded by Priscilla. Our next meeting will be December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Priscilla Margola, Secretary