

SWANTON PLANNING COMMISSION
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September 8, 2015

SPECIAL MEETING

The Swanton Planning Commission will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at the Swanton Town Offices, 1 Academy Street.

Present:

Jim Hubbard
Ed Daniel
Andy Larocque
Yaasha Wheeler, Secretary
David Jescavage, Town Administrator

1. Agenda Review

No changes.

2. Executive Session to Review Zoning Administrator Applicants

Mr. Hubbard called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Mr. Daniel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Larocque, to enter executive session at 6:36 p.m. Motion carried.

Mr. Hubbard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Daniel, to come out of executive session at 9:07 p.m. The Planning Commission had met with and interviewed three applicants for zoning administrator. The Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend Darlene Marrier to the Selectboard for the zoning administrator position.

3. Any other necessary business.

It was noted that a Planning Commission meeting regarding the Milt Robison land trust issue would be held on the 15th, and the first public hearing for the town plan would be held on Sept. 16th. The Planning Commission all planned to be at the public hearing. If any changes were made at that meeting, there must be a 15 day wait period, which would push that meeting out past the next expected meeting, currently schedule for the 23rd. Mr. Jescavage anticipated that there would be changes in regard to renewable energy, since the

Selectboard was concerned that the plan needed more teeth. The Public Service Board would take the information in the town plan under consideration.

Mr. Daniel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Larocque, to approve the PC minutes of August 12, 2015 and of August 18, 2015. Motion carried.

Mr. Jescavage informed the board that, in Vermont, there was nothing in any statute allowing the creation of a Joint Legislative Body between two municipal bodies. There was a statute regarding joint Planning Commissions. The Selectboard had been advised that only the Selectboard could vote on zoning bylaws and municipal plans. In the case of a municipal plan that applies to both the town and the village, then it was totally at the discretion of the Selectboard to decide. Up until now, both boards (the Village Trustees and the Selectboard) had been voting as one body. Therefore, anything they approve is challengeable. In order for the village to have equal say, there would need to be a separate village bylaw and plan. The upcoming JLB meetings had been warned as separate SLB and Village Trustees meetings, and discussions would take place regarding this legal information. Mr. Jescavage explained how Enosburg structured its joint boards (Planning Commission and Development Review Board) for the village and town. The Planning Commission tried to recall when the JLB began.

Mr. Hubbard stated that he was not comfortable drafting a letter in response to the Swanton Hill Project preliminary plan without aid and guidance. Mr. Jescavage suggested that town attorney Brian Monaghan might give some information. The PC agreed that that would be very helpful, and would give the PC better standing before the PSB.

The Planning Commission discussed the proposed solar farm in Highgate.

4. Adjournment

Mr. Daniel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Larocque, to adjourn at 9:33 p.m. Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Yaasha Wheeler
Planning Commission Secretary

Jim Hubbard

Ed Daniel

Andy Larocque