

SWANTON PLANNING COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES
Wednesday, June 20, 2018
Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT
7:00 p.m.

Present: Jim Hubbard, Chair; Andrew LaRocque, Ed Daniel, Members; Amy Giroux, Zoning Administrator; Elisabeth Nance, Administrative Assistant; Reg Beliveau, Village Manager; Tim Girard, Chief, Swanton Fire Department; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; John Smith; Patricia Rainville

1. Call to Order – Chair Hubbard called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. Agenda Review – Chair Hubbard reviewed the agenda items. No changes were made.
3. Discuss Route 78

Mr. Daniel asked if there are any steps the village or town can take to limit or discourage additional development in the West Swanton area recently affected by flooding.

Mr. Beliveau noted adjustments have been made by individual home owners to mitigate flood damage in homes, such as moving electrical boxes up on the wall and raising the wiring.

Mr. Jescavage stated Swanton cannot eliminate development in an area; if a development meets zoning and flood plain criteria it must be considered. Mr. Jescavage noted, however, there are steps the village or town can take such as requiring larger minimum lot sizes to limit the number of homes that can be built.

Mr. Jescavage further stated a 5-year project is underway to update the flood plain maps, which were last done in 1984. This could remove some areas from or add areas to the flood plain.

Mr. Daniel asked Mr. Jescavage to provide the commission with his recommendations.

4. Discuss Screening standards for solar electricity

The commission reviewed the draft Swanton standards, which were modeled after Fairfax.

Mr. Beliveau noted there is a cost of getting the energy out, which may need to be reviewed.

Chair Hubbard stated bylaws may need to be reviewed and updated in coming years to address solar panel installation.

This discussion will be continued once the commission has had a chance to review the draft standards.

5. Public Comment

Ms. Rainville thanked the commission for paying attention to issues like solar panels and their subsequent disposal.

6. Review of minutes of May 16, 2018

Mr. Daniel made a motion, seconded by Mr. LaRocque, to approve the May 16, 2018 as written. Motion carried.

7. Any Other Necessary Business

Mr. Daniel asked Chief Girard and Mr. Beliveau for their thoughts on heliport/air strip requirements.

Chief Girard stated Swanton is fortunate to have a regional airport, which limits the need for individuals to have their own.

Mr. Giroux stated Northwest Regional Planning Commission is working on draft policy over the summer.

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Daniel made a motion at 8:03 p.m., seconded by Mr. LaRocque, to adjourn. Motion carried.