

Bristol Planning Commission Meeting

September 19, 2017

Commission Members: Katie Raycroft-Meyer (Chair), Anna Daylor (vice chair), Gary Clark, Bill Brown, Sue Kavanagh, and Kris Perlee

Other: Neatv camera operator Sean

Meeting opened at 7:05 p.m.

Katie opened the meeting by reminding the PC of her request to attend this evening's meeting prepared to share ideas and recommendations for future "broad scope" possibilities for work by the PC. She gave each PC member a chance to share their ideas which are summarized as the following:

Exploring the impact of limited Town wastewater/sewage capacity on future business development.

How is Bristol planning for the possibility of natural gas (and taking advantage of gas line installation to prepare for other in-ground pipes/lines for other purposes)?

What are the Selectboard's ideas around needs and possibilities for future planning and prioritizing? Katie re-iterated her strong interest in holding a joint PC/SB meeting and/or setting a more regular schedule for the PC to speak with the SB especially in this new phase of PC work.

The PC should prioritize solar energy development, including siting of solar farms. Learn more about New Haven's work and recommendations offered by the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. What other alternatives to fossil fuels can Bristol support?

What is the Town's policy (ordinance, regulation) regarding the use of drones? Concerns about safety, noise and privacy.

What are the ramifications for Bristol of Vt Act 148 requiring composting? Are commercial composting opportunities possible?

The PC should focus on the support of walking and biking in Bristol. Can we be strategic in planning new sidewalks to benefit and amend neighborhoods? Re-visit previous bike path/trail planning study?

How can the PC work to help citizens better understand the role of planning and zoning and why these are very important to Bristol (and why and how people can become more involved)? Make planning and zoning easier to understand and embrace for the common good. How can we help citizens better understand the newly approved Zoning Regulations?

How best can the PC prioritize updates to the Town Plan (approved in November 2012 and re-adopted with one technical amendment in March 2017)? Take the time to ask for and collect input from across the Town – other volunteer and service groups, churches, business, farmers, merchants, etc. Consider engaging a moderator in framing the request for and input of ideas from the community. What do people in the community want?

Are there more immediate amendments to the new Zoning Regulations that can add clarity and make them more user friendly? How best to prioritize and plan for a timeline for doing so?

Can Bristol consider adopting sub-division regulations? (Consideration of Act 250 triggers without sub-division regs.)

Should Bristol consider instituting a Design Review Board?

The PC should support the simplification of the zoning permit application process (review application itself, check-list, clarification of applicable Zoning Regs sections based on application/project, etc.). Can we consider 'guide books' for certain common permitting needs?

Can planning tools such as Planned Unit Developments be clearer and better encouraged/supported in Bristol?

How can Bristol be more supportive of business and light (clean) industry development?

What environmental and sustainability challenges and opportunities present themselves, particularly related to water (rivers, ponds, wetlands, water table) and local forestlands.

What are considerations specific to an aging population that planning can address and support? Housing, access, transportation, health care, etc. "Small" housing, retrofitting existing large village houses to serve this need.

What can Bristol do to encourage and support more reliable and reasonably priced rental housing?

Should we consider hamlet planning? (edges of the former village area)

What are greater public transportation possibilities and how best can planning support?

More immediate concerns/ideas/next steps:

The PC discussed ways that it can encourage potential new members to make their candidacy know to the Selectboard, including an announcement on Front Porch Forum. The PC will soon have three vacancies when Kris Perlee begins his work as Zoning and Planning Administrator on Oct. 2.

Schedule a PC visit with the SB soon, particularly with new leadership (chair/vice chair).

Katie will ask Bill Sayre for his ideas and input on priorities (since he was absent this evening).

Update Town website re PC membership and leadership.

Minutes

Sue made a motion to approve the September 5, 2017 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Bill B. All were in favor (6-0). Motion passed.

Administrative Matters

Next meeting date of Tuesday, October 17, 2017 set.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Kavanagh, member of the Bristol Planning Commission