

CALAIS PLANNING COMMISSION

March 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jan Ohlsson, Melanie Kehne, Gary Root & John McCullough
ZOOM guests = Jeff Rubin and Denise Wheeler

Via ZOOM Meeting

- 1) Convened 7:03 p.m.
- 2) No minutes to Review
- 3) Regarding abandoned vehicles:
 - a. Mr. Rubin spoke to the issue of “abandoned vehicles” in the context of the Ament property at 3790 Vt Rt 14. Mr. Rubin suggested specific Regulatory language:
“ In all districts, any motor vehicle without a current and valid state inspection sticker must be stored in an enclosed building or placed on a rear or side yard and screened from view from any public road. Unregistered motor vehicles used for onsite property maintenance, such as snow plowing and vehicles used for agricultural purposes that could not be accomplished without wheeled transport are exempted from this provision.”
 - b. McCullough called attention to state statute VSA 24, 2271 & 2272 which appears to address abandoned vehicles.
 - c. Discussion turned to whether this should be addressed in the Zoning Regs, or by Ordinance. If by Ordinance, then enforcement by Calais Town Constable.
 - d. It was noted that the language proposed by Mr. Fuller is very close to that found in Moretown’s Zoning Regulations, section 4.14.
- 4) Discussion regarding **Designated Village Center (DVC)** for North Calais. A request came to the PC to consider DVC boundary that would include Memorial Hall. Currently there is no DVC at North Calais.
 - a. The PC was made aware that a new **DVC** should be specifically supported by in the Town Plan.
 - b. The proposed Shoreland Overlay District (SHROD) being considered by the PC will have the effect of expanding underlying districts when the current Shoreland District is dropped and replaced by an overlay district. With SHROD, the Village District (Zoning District) will move into space currently in Shoreland District. But, the proposed new Village District boundaries do not, at this time, extend up to the end of the peninsula on which Memorial Hall is suited. The PC is asked to consider expanding the boundaries of the Village District such that any proposed North Calais **DVC** would fall within the Village District boundaries.
 - c. McCullough offered to draw a new Village District map for PC consideration.
 - d. The PC was made aware that changes to the Town Plan for the purpose of supporting DVC status in North Calais will precipitate a review of the Plan. Lacking in the current

Town Plan (last updated 2016) is a Section on **Forest Integrity**. Gary Root offered to look into the current Plan and see to what extent Forest Integrity is addressed by another name. The PC is aware of the extensive 2016 rewrite of the Natural Resources section which, by all recollections, addressed key Forest Integrity issues.

- e. The PC was made aware that Northfield and Waterbury have both recently revised their plans to include Forest Integrity. These may serve as models for our own language.

5) Meeting Closed at 9:00 pm.