

CALAIS PLANNING COMMISSION

June 6, 2023 Minutes

Members Present: Jan Ohlsson, Melanie Kehne, Gary Root (bearing post-pandemic baked treats), and John McCullough

Convened 7:00 p.m. at the Calais Town Hall.

- 1) Zoning Regulation Amendments
 - a. Discussed upcoming Selectboard (SB) Hearing (June 12) where they meet to accept and/or otherwise comment on proposed amendments to the *Calais Land Use and Development Regulations*. As many SB members attended the Planning Commission (PC) Public Hearing on the amendments, the feeling was that the SB Hearing would not require an exhaustive presentation by the PC.
 - b. Discussed the potentiality of an “informational meeting” by the PC to the voters on or about July 14 or 17 in the event that the SB accepts the amendments and decides to have them approved by Australian ballot later this summer.
- 2) Approved May 2 Minutes
- 3) Mapping
 - a. McCullough brought up the subject of maps. The PC gave him a green light to look into alternatives to the Calais Town webmap which is currently pieced together and maintained by Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC). Cited issues include:
 - i. Updating Grand list data
 - ii. Updating aerial photos
 - iii. Adding additional content such as deeds, conservation easements, ability to access current Grand List with regard to abutters, etc.
 - iv. Making pop-up dialog boxes more user friendly
- 4) Short term rentals
 - a. It was reported that the SB does not currently have the “band width” to research the problem as it relates to the current housing shortage in the state, nor could it immediately formulate a strategy to deal with a problem if one is found in Calais. It was not made clear whether or not it was a problem that might be addressed by the *Calais Land Use and Development Regulations* (the PC) or by Ordinance (the SB). Further discussion tabled for the time being.
- 5) Recruiting new blood on the PC.
 - a. In the search for potential PC members, McCullough offered to reach out to Jake Ajo & Sarah Black, Sonja Andrews and Josh Schultz.
- 6) Town Plan
 - a. PC is interested in hiring an outside consultant to collaborate with it on the upcoming Town Plan re-write. Jan Ohlsson will reach out to Clare Rock of CVRPC for recommendations.
- 7) Meeting adjourned 8:45 pm