

CALAIS PLANNING COMMISSION
April 16, 2024 Meeting
Draft Minutes

Attending: Jarrod Weiss, Gary Root, Rachel Seelig, Kathy Hentcy, Melanie Kehne

The meeting convened at 7 p.m. at the Calais Town Hall, Chair Jarrod Weiss presiding. No other attendees online or in person. John McCullough and Vicky Arthur were absent. Melanie Kehne took minutes. Gary Root brought some very delicious oatmeal cookies.

1. No additions to the Agenda or public comment on items not on the agenda.
2. Approval of the 4/2/2024 minutes and review of the Town Plan Historic Resources section were tabled so John could be part of the discussion.
3. Town Plan – Transportation. PC discussed the revised draft Transportation section and reviewed the public comments received online to date.
 - Cites to “2023 Census” starting on p. 1 should clarify that it is the Census Annual Community Survey (ACS). The ACS updates annually, and is not as thorough as the actual Census, which only happens every ten years. While the ACS may be somewhat less accurate than the decennial census, it does provide the most recent information.
 - Regarding the question on p.7 of the draft about mechanisms for public input in State transportation projects, Melanie reached out to Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission senior transportation planner Reuben MacMartin. He shared a VTrans Guidance document, which contemplates public input at various stages of project planning and implementation:
<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/highway/documents/publications/VTransPublicInvolvementGuide2017.pdf>. He also said that our VTrans planning coordinator for this region is Faith Dall.
 - He also spoke with the VTrans project manager for the Rt. 14 paving project, Matthew Bogaczyk, who offered to meet to discuss that project. Jarrod will respond to Reuben and set that up. Jarrod will also loop in the Selectboard and others, including the Calais member of the CVRPC Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). Calais has sought improvements on Route 14, including traffic calming and safety improvements through E. Calais village, and safety improvements at the intersection of Lightning Ridge and Max Gray Roads for years. The paving project does not seem to address these needs, and no one recalls any public meetings to get input in the early stages of this project.
 - Kathy Hentcy pointed out that paved road projects are required to comply with the Complete Streets statute, now codified at 19 V.S.A. Chapter 24. Kathy also shared the [VTrans Complete Streets Guidance](#). Strong consensus among PC members to seek traffic calming and traffic and pedestrian safety improvements to the extent possible in the Route 14 paving project.
 - PC reviewed the public comments received to date, which are thoughtful and much appreciated. Public comments received online are automatically added to the

spreadsheet that will be on the PC webpage, for review as we move forward.

4. Preliminary discussion of Economic Development town plan section. Jarrod gave some highlights of his work so far on the Economic Development section. Like many other sections, it has significant overlap with other sections of the town plan. It was also noted that improvements like village wastewater and transportation enhancements may require grant funding, and that it would be helpful to have a part-time grant writer available to the Town who can apprise boards and commissions about opportunities and deadlines.
5. New Business
 - Jarrod shared an email from the Village Trust Initiative, a joint effort of Preservation Trust of Vermont, Vermont Council on Rural Development, and the Vermont Community Foundation, to help rural community working groups with technical assistance and funding for “revitalization projects to reinvigorate the village environment and strengthen a sense of community and place.” Online intake forms are available until 5/24/2024.
 - VLCT is giving an Open Meeting Law webinar on 4/17/2024, with recording available afterward. Jarrod and Melanie registered and can share an update at our next meeting.
6. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9 p.m.