

CALAIS PLANNING COMMISSION (PC)

Sept 17, 2024 Minutes

Meeting via ZOOM

PC Members Present: Jarrod Weiss, Melanie Kehne, Rachel Seelig, John McCullough, Kathy Hentcy, & Gary Root. Guest attendee = Larry Bush (via ZOOM)

1. Meeting convened around 7:00 p.m.
2. Minutes
 - a. No Sept 3 minutes
 - b. August 6 tabled until Sept 17 meeting
3. School
 - a. Calais Elementary School (CES) open house & BBQ hosted by Friends of Calais, Thursday, September 19th ?.
 - b. It was reported that October 1st may be the vote by Washington Union Unified Supervisory District (WUUSD) regarding possible closure of Calais Elementary School.
 - c. An issue to watch for is the budget for a 4-school district vs. current 6-school district.
 - d. Rachel Seelig reported that some data suggests student performance is better in smaller schools.
4. East Calais village Traffic calming. Nothing new to report
5. *Recreational Resource* section presented.
 - a. Discussed condition of East Calais Recreation Field and who maintains it. Amenities include baseball diamond, dug outs, half-court basketball and parking.
 - b. Someone mentioned a merger between East Calais Recreation and East Calais Community Trust (East Calais Store).
 - c. It was suggested that maybe disparate community groups (eg.: Old West Church Association, Robinson Sawmill,. and Friends of the Kent) be directed by an overarching management group. Would the Town do this?
 - d. Talk of VAST snowmobile trails being used by X-Country skiers
 - e. Talk of a Calais water festival.
 - f. Some place for overnight camping for small RVs, trailers, tents. Maybe the Rec Field?
6. Gary Root spoke about ongoing work on *Agriculture (Ag)* section
 - a. Decided to start from scratch instead of revising 2016 TP Ag section
 - b. Spoke of need for sales venues for local produce. Maybe a farmers' market at East Calais Rec Field?
7. Adjourned 8:45