

CALAIS PLANNING COMMISSION (PC)

June 4, 2024 Unapproved Minutes

PC Members Present: Jarrod Weiss, Melanie Kehne, Gary Root, John McCullough, Rachel Seelig & Kathy Hentcy

1. Meeting convened around 7:00 p.m.
2. Oatmeal/chocolate-chip cookies baked by Gary Root were well received.
3. Minutes
 - a. McCullough did not get May 21 draft minutes out, so review tabled until June 18th.
 - b. Also, McCullough to submit approved minutes to Sara Black for posting on Town website.
4. East Calais traffic problems
 - a. Proposed that June 18th PC Meeting to be held at East Calais Rec Center for the purpose of community discussion regarding traffic calming proposals through East Calais Village.
 - b. Reuben MacMartin, Senior Transportation Planner with CVRPC may attend to talk about options.
 - c. It was agreed that Marshfield Road is among the problems that to be addressed. A narrow peninsula of land between Back Street and Church Street is being used as a septic disposal field, and so cannot be considered in any solution to this problem.
5. Selectboard (SB)& Town Plan
 - a. PC Chair Jarrod Weisse attended the last Calais SB Meeting and discussed SB involvement/review with regard to the ongoing Town Plan (TP) rewrite. It was agreed that there would be regular, brief TP updates to the SB at their meetings.
6. Education Section of TP
 - a. Discussed the logistics of a school merger and exporting Calais schoolchildren to other towns.
 - b. Does the demographic analysis used to justify closing the Calais Elementary School take into consideration the cyclical bulges in population and the possible need for a local school in the future?
 - c. The PC understanding is that the “yes” vote to export students to schools in other towns is by majority of voters in the overarching Washington Central Unified Union School District (WCUUSD). But, a “no” vote by Calais residents can defer the action of a WCUUSD “yes” vote for some period of time. (One year? Two years?)
 - d. TP Education section to address the way that the quality of community life in Calais is in part defined by its school. Might a town without its own school see an impact on property values?

7. June 18th will be for **Municipal Management** (Jarrod Weise) and **Flood Resilience** (Vicky Arthur).
8. Meeting adjourned circa 9 pm