

# CALAIS PLANNING COMMISSION

January 2, 2024 Minutes

Members Present: Jan Ohlsson, Melanie Kehne, Gary Root, Vicki Arthur, Jerrd Weiss and John McCullough

1. Convened 7:05 p.m. at the Calais Town Hall.
  - a. (Cookies still warm from the oven. Thank you, Gary)
2. Approved Minutes from November 7 and December 5, 2023. McCullough to see that they are posted on Town Website.
3. Jan introduced the big topic: who will be in charge of putting together the 2024 Town Plan revision?
  - a. In general, Planning Commission members (PC) have been assigned sections. When the author believes it is time to do so, it is submitted to the PC membership for review. Vicki Arthur will “manage” the document as it progresses.
  - b. Gary Root commented on Agriculture (one of his sections) and how Ag is different from what it had been 20 years ago. Big Dairy is all but gone from Calais. New Ag includes Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Maybe cannabis & CBD? Commercially grown Botanicals? Is community composting an Ag subject?
4. Discussion turned to Housing and Economic Development
  - a. Gary Root asked that the PC (and Calais) urge the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to consider regulatory standards that would make composting toilets no more difficult to permit than conventional disposal field systems.
  - b. It was suggested that Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) also reach out to DEC regarding composting toilets.
5. It was noted that Cell and Internet services are found in the MUNICIPAL SERVICES & RESOURCES, UTILITIES section of the Town Plan.
6. Discussed public hearings on Town Plan.
  - a. First hearing(s) would be where the public is invited to share their aspirations and concerns which a Town Plan might address.
  - b. Possible meeting places: Adamant Community Center, East Calais Rec Center, Maple Corner Community Center, & Calais Town Hall.
  - c. All Town Plan sections would be up for discussion, rather than focusing on selected sections at different hearings.
  - d. Jan Ohlsson said she would write up agendas for public hearings.
  - e. It was agreed that the first of these public hearings would be at the Calais Town Hall on Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm.

- f. Jerrod Weiss will manage the notice & warning for this hearing. Front Porch Forum post will include a link to the current Town Plan.
- 7. John McCullough said that he would look into the Grand List data to find how many of Calais properties are owned (or recently purchased by) folks from out of state. Also, look at split between seasonal dwellings and single-family dwellings as they relate to out-of-state stake holders.
- 8. Meeting adjourned circa 9 pm