

Pittsford Planning Commission Meeting
May 26, 2022

Board Members Present: Mark Winslow, Rick Conway, Chuck Charbonneau, Kevin Blow, Mark Pape, Derek Blow, Mike Norris

Others Present: Jeff Biasuzzi, Sandy Conway

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Mark Winslow – Chair.

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Kevin Blow and seconded by Mark Pape to approve the agenda. **The motion passed unanimously.**

3. Approval of Minutes

. April 28, 2022– Planning Commission Meeting

A motion was made by Rick Conway and seconded by Kevin Blow to approve the minutes of April 28, 2022. **The motion passed unanimously.**

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Update on Historic Green

Donna Wilson reported the State is still in the process of editing the verbiage the Town submitted. She noted the wording was over the acceptable amount and it needs to be confirmed it is accurate. Once approved, there can be an unveiling ceremony scheduled. Rick Conway stated there is a question of where to put it as VTrans will want to approve the location.

6. New Business

Mark Winslow read a minor amendment to the Furnace Brook LLC Solar Plan and advised that he will provide the information to the Zoning Administrator. A map was included with all of the bush placings noted.

Mr. Winslow advised that a letter was received from Efficiency Vermont that provides information on the rebates offered. He noted these types of offers were discussed when developing the Energy Plan. Chuck Charbonneau noted this is matched money. It was also noted there is a \$750 rebate for heat pumps and rebates available for other items.

Mark Winslow advised this would be his last Planning Commission meeting as a member of the Committee. He will be resigning his position after this meeting through the Town Manager, as he seemed it an appropriate time to apply for the Select Board seat that is vacant. He has been on the Planning Commission for 6 years and 4 years as Committee Chair. He noted the Planning Commission is well stocked with good people. Kevin Blow will step in for the interim and asked the membership to assist with the computer work. Mike

Norris volunteered to assist. Mr. Winslow developed a procedural sheet for hearings for the Committee's use noting it is important to follow the exact process. Mr. Winslow thanked the membership and noted it has been a good board to be on. Chuck Charbonneau stated Mr. Winslow runs an awesome meeting and appreciates him moving into the Select Board seat. He has been an excellent Chair and the Committee appreciates all the work he did.

Jeff Biasuzzi asked if anyone participated the VLCT cannabis zoom meeting on Wednesday and noted the Town Manager participated in the informational session about what the Cannabis Control Board will be moving forward with. It was noted they have produced a guidance document. Mr. Biasuzzi advised there are cultivator licenses being issued by the State, for growing indoors or outside. Cannabis is not considered an agriculture crop but may be determined to be an agricultural crop rather than a controlled substance. The zoning rules do not usually address this in its own entity and is handled like any other business. With cultivation, if there are not zoning regulations for a crop-based entity, only fencing, lighting or structures can be regulated. There will be test labs created and there is a potential lab to be located at the old Punderson farm. They decided to go for a home occupation permit for the test lab. A municipality cannot discriminate cannabis as a separate entity and if it is decided to charge an option tax, it has to apply to everything and not just this one item. Pittsford does have an equipment tax that this entity would qualify under. Chuck Charbonneau stated this will not be as lucrative a business as it was thought to be. It was noted there are licenses for labs, cultivator levels, processing levels, and retail, which are all separate licenses. The State is only currently going to approve 175,000 square feet of small cultivator licenses. Currently people 21 years of age or older can grow 2 plants per year. Mr. Biasuzzi noted Pittsford cannot prohibit cannabis growing. Mark Winslow advised this subject is something the Planning Commission will need to keep an eye on and the Select Board should be providing some guidance on this. Mr. Biasuzzi noted Brandon will control cannabis with a local Cannabis Committee. He stated cannabis is very aromatic and there are rules where it can be grown and suggested there needs to be some rules about isolation. Derek Blow noted the State has provided some basic guidelines about growing. Rick Conway cautioned the Zoning Administrator and Board that a lot of thought will need to be put into this subject with regard to enforcement issues. Mr. Biasuzzi noted if Pittsford wants to maintain a minimum of regulation, which is fine and the only control would be on retail sales and home occupation. There is no control on cultivation, except for the fencing.

7. Old Business

Mark Winslow stated from the last meeting, he has had no response or communication from any of the legislators that were in attendance, except a thank-you from Representative Shaw. There were a few things they would get back to the Planning Commission on and suggested giving them a month prior to a follow-up. Mr. Winslow suggested the Committee review the items that were discussed at the next meeting and noted he would be willing to attend a follow-up meeting with the legislators. Mr. Winslow also suggested the Committee work on items that need revising in the Town Plan well in advance of the next Town Plan revision deadline.

Rick Conway asked when Ed Bove will be leaving the Regional Planning Commission and Donna Wilson advised it will be June, but he will be working with the RRPC as a consultant.

8. Next Meeting

July 28, 2022 @ 7:00PM – Planning Commission Meeting (June Regular Meeting Cancelled)

9. Adjournment

A motion was made by Derek Blow and seconded by Kevin Blow to adjourn the meeting at 7:27PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary

Approved by,

The Pittsford Planning Commission