

Worcester Planning Commission
MINUTES
Sept 28, 2023, 5:30 p.m.
via ZOOM

Attending: Chani Waterhouse, Bill Arrand, Toni Kaeding

Chani called the meeting to order at 5:37pm and triggered roundtable sharing of “simple pleasures of the season”. No revisions to the agenda, no public comment.

Minutes of June 13, 2023

Toni moved to accept as submitted, Bill seconded, unanimous.

Energy Task Force Update

Chani reported on first meeting. Attending: Chani, Sam Lash (CVRPC), Avram Patt, Pete Bogart, Michelle Hill, Kim Bolduc and Darlene Johnson. Members shared their interests in serving on the Task Force, including but not limited to:

- Seeking real commonsense solutions (not greenwashing)
- Affordability
- Understanding limits/potential of small town capabilities
- Contributing to decreased greenhouse gas usage
- Beauty
- Readiness to cultivate, guide and accept energy infrastructure
- Increase housing affordable, high performing, resilient housing options
- Neighbor friendly strategies
- Community connectedness
- Accessibility
- Reliability and resilience

Sam described the planning process for creating an Energy Plan per Act 174. Each group member agreed to review an approved Plan from a different town and report back impressions/discoveries at next Energy Task Force Meeting.

Historic Designation

Toni reported on her research that examined feasibility of Worcester seeking Historic Designation. She interviewed, David Book (Worcester Historical Society), Jan Ohlsson (Calais Planning Commission), David Schutz (Calais Historic Preservation Commission) and Devin Colman (State Architectural Historian). None of those interviewed could identify any direct benefit that Historic Designation would provide to Worcester except “bragging rights”. Devin Colman also suggested that Worcester’s lack of zoning likely eliminated Worcester’s eligibility for Historic Designation consideration. Toni’s recommendation was to not seek Historic Designation at this time.

Planning Commission Membership

Chani reported on “recruitment” activities for new members. She will prepare “update” of Planning Commission activities for Front Porch Forum and include an invitation for interested parties to apply.

Next meeting: October 17 at 5:30pm. Motion to adjourn was duly made and passed. Meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Kaeding