

Approved Minutes: Marlboro Planning Commission August 9, 2022

In attendance: Mary Sargent, Tim Segar, Edie Mas, Jennifer Girouard, Patti Smith, Staley McDermet, Brian Potter

In attendance via Zoom: Edie Mas, Will Shakespeare

Meeting opened at 5:15 pm

Minutes: Minutes from July 12, 2022, approved unanimously.

Correspondence:

Communication from the Vermont Downtown Development Board, Department of Housing and Community Development that at its meeting on August 1, 2022, the Downtown Development Board found Marlboro's renewal application for the village center designation met the statutory requirements and was renewed. The designated village center will be eligible for benefits for the next eight years until June 2030.

Edie corresponded with Jenni Lavoie, Katie Buckley, and Alison Low about the Municipal Planning Grants and we will discuss the details at this meeting.

Discussions

We discuss the possibility of applying for Municipal Planning Grants:

- Edie had multiple conversations and reported on the discussions. A key piece of information is that the grants are now due in December (not October) as there are new guidelines.
 - From discussions with Jenni Lavoie, State Grant Specialist (she helped in submitting the last Planning Grant): Town needs to appoint two municipal authorizing officers that can sign things for at least two years and a grant administrator, who will presumably be Nick. We can assign a writer, which might be Edie, and a reader role, which can be John Bennett.
 - The grant project for FY 2023 has gotten delayed. The Program description and Application Guidelines will not come out until September, with a submission deadline of Dec 1. Decisions made sometime in January. There will be changes in the questions, priorities, etc., so she did not suggest beginning to write it until we have the guidelines.
 - Katie Buckley from VLCT, confirmed these deadlines. She stressed that there is a long timeline for ARPA funds and agreed it was very good if towns took the time to use the monies to leverage other grants, like transportation and septic. She was excited about our past septic grant and urged us to apply now as the funds are available right now. The grant could provide for a project manager that would have

the expertise to oversee the project. This feedback was communicated to Nick who relayed that the Select Board would first need to consider if this is what they wanted to do.

- Alison Low, NVDA director, recommended coordination with John Bennett. Edie also requested copies of the pertinent Planning Grants from other towns such as Glover, Barnet, Westfield as a review of the Municipal Planning grant for Fairhaven proved helpful.
- We discuss sending a member to the next Select Board meeting to provide updates on our conversations as well as recommending that they review the previous septic system grant. Edie, Will, and Tim plan to attend.

Discussion of potential revisions to Zoning Regulations for amendments

- We table discussion until our next meeting when more members can attend and discuss.

Discussion of Subdivision Regulations

- Tim will contact Chris Campany to inform them we are beginning to discuss this topic and invite him to our next meeting.

Discussion on uses allowable on the former Marlboro campus

- Brian asks about how to address potential non-educational uses at the Marlboro campus. Currently the uses under consideration are educational-related but it is possible that future uses could be outside of that. We discuss the potential steps the Music Festival might need to address this question.
 - We discuss that steps can be to: check zoning designation for allowable uses in educational zone (some are allowed, some are conditional), potentially go through the Planning Commission if need to propose amendments to zoning designations. It would also need to go through an Act 250 review.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 13th, 2022 at 5 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Girouard

