

Chelsea Planning Commission
Minutes of August 18, 2016 Meeting
Chelsea Town Hall

Members Present: Dickson Corbett, Ed Burger, Marianne McCann, Tim Courts, Neil Kennedy

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes. Last month's minutes from both the regular and special meeting were approved.

2. Discussion of new member. Dickson agreed to advertise on Front Porch Forum for a new member.

3. Discussion about next steps: economic revitalization plan. An open discussion took place about the economic challenges facing Chelsea and what the planning commission can do by way of developing an economic revitalization plan. Grant and tax-credit opportunities from a variety of sources were discussed, including Vt. Dep't of Housing and Community Development and the USDA Rural programs, as were possibilities surrounding a town-visioning process as that would relate to the creation of an economic revitalization plan. One starting point was identified, in that there are consultants who will work with towns around developing economic revitalization plans. It was agreed to invite Rebecca Sanborn Stone to the next meeting. She is a consultant from Bethel who has worked with other towns on these issues with success. The invitation is to hear about her work and the funding opportunities for her work (i.e. grants) and to discuss what the first steps for Chelsea could be. Dickson agreed to make contact with Ms. Stone and determine availability for a meeting. It was agreed not to have this meeting on the ordinary third Thursday on account of the Tunbridge Fair but rather to inquire about the second and fourth Thursdays.

In addition, Tim agreed to make contact with Wendy Forbes to discuss what happened with efforts about a year ago to open a grocery store in town.

4. Other business. Velco Permit Application #2015-052, related to improvements to the Chelsea substation, was reviewed and it was agreed that the planning commission would not seek involvement in the permit review process.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.