

Town of Danville
Approved Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
7:30 pm Danville Town Hall
September 28, 2023

Attendance: Jeff Paquet, Rob Balivet, Glenn Herrin, Kate Whitehead, David Kyle, Vince Foy, Michael Hogue
Guest: Alison Despathy

Minutes

MOTION: Michael Hogue made a motion to approve the August minutes. Rob Balivet seconded. Motion Carried.

Committee Updates

SB has approved early release work to include sitework, drainage and foundation repair. Still collecting bids; painting, roofing and electric. Michael has talked with St. J Academy trades to help with the electric. Seeking additional grants to close funding gap.

Bylaw Modernization Schedule

Placesense will provide a final document next week which will include the results of an audit of the existing bylaws against best practices for affordable housing. Report will include recommendations for bylaw changes. Phase II of the project will include a study of affordable housing in Danville. PC discussed existing senior housing in Danville and Community Trust options that the Town is exploring.

Enhanced Energy Plan Adoption and Updates

SB adopted the Enhanced Energy Plan. Next steps include NVDA stamp that the plan is consistent with the Regional Plan. Alison mentioned issues that Stamford has faced with wind turbines/setbacks – she offered to draft language to include in the Enhanced Energy Plan.

Town Plan Update

Section V: Land Use & Development (Jeff)

Total Housing Units & Natural Resources charts needs updating. Included new language around agricultural goals. Discussed Village Development - 3 acre lots could encourage sprawl. Need to develop in a way that encourages walkable village center. Consider infill development, cutting lot size. Discussed water treatment plant capacity and future development. Discussed and revised section objectives, discussed adding an agricultural overlay district to identify existing farmland. Discussed using the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment tool (LESA) for land use decisions. This tool provides a framework to help rank parcels based on local resource evaluations and identify prime Ag land. And from an Agricultural perspective determine the value of each parcel.

Section VII: Historic, Scenic, and Cultural Resources

Rob mentioned Historic Sites & Structures Survey conducted in the 1980s – an inventory for designated views and buildings in Danville. This covered 172 sites, but not all are historically significant. For historic preservation goals we need to define a ‘hierarchy’ of significance for the properties and conduct a review of the inventory – verify & update the document. Possibly a student project? Need to also include the Train Station in this section as an economic and social hub. Discussed updating photos and inventory/lists in this section – including areas of scenic interests and Century Farms. Reviewed and updated objectives.

General Discussion: October Mtg.

Section III: Jobs & Economic Development

Section VI: Natural Heritage

Commission Membership Transition

Membership transition – Jeff Paquet is stepping down (9/23 last mtg). Glenn will transition from Chair starting in January '24. Michael has plans to step down in December '23 - will stay on as Chair of DTSC. Alison Despathy is joining the PC.

Next Meeting: October 26, 2023 7:30pm

Meeting Adjourned 9:11 pm

Respectfully submitted by Kate Whitehead