

Minutes of Belvidere Planning Commission Meeting

June 3, 2021

Meeting convened at 6:03 PM and adjourned at 7:12 PM. This was a remote meeting using ZOOM.

Members present were Deb Baker, Ken Adams Jr., Fran Leavitt, Mary Hysick, Earl Domina, Jr. and Kathy Marchant. Also present were Cathy Mander-Adams, ZOOM meeting host, Alec Jones from LCPC, and Kipp Verner, Lamoille Fibernet representative from Belvidere. Reading of the Public Meeting ZOOM announcement protocol was waived.

Motion by Deb to accept the minutes of the May 13, 2021, meeting as written, and request the Town Clerk mark the draft copy on file at the TCO as approved; 2nd by Kathy; motion carried.

CUD updates by Kipp Verner:

- Ad has been placed for RFP's for partners to perform a wide range of work for the CUD, ranging from engineering studies, infrastructure installation, and daily maintenance and operation of system once developed; deadlines for RFP response is June 12th, and contractors will be chosen on July 2nd; CUD is looking for a project manager for this next phase of its growth
- The State of Vermont has earmarked \$150 million for broadband service improvements throughout the state, and a new state VCBA will be created to monitor allocation and spending of funds
- Smaller grants are still funding the daily operation of the CUD
- Mansfield Community Fiber will be installing fiber optic cable along Vt. Rt. 109 from Jeffersonville to Belvidere
- There is a good positive outlook for the future of Lamoille Fibernet; many interested stakeholders and partners to aid in success of CUD; possible highspeed service available to Belvidere homes in 18 – 36 months

Mary informed meeting of article in this week's *News & Citizen* regarding the spraying of sewage sludge on fields at the Boyden Farm in Cambridge, raising concern of similar events happening in Belvidere. Should our town plan address this in the future?

Discussion of final steps of 2020 Town Plan revision:

- Motion by Mary to hold the public hearing of the Town Plan revision at the Belvidere Central School; 2nd by Deb; motion carried.
- Alec will send copies of the plan to adjacent towns 30 days in advance of public hearing
- Ken and Alec will warn public hearing 15 days in advance, include notice in *News & Citizen*
- The public hearing will be held at the Belvidere Central School on July 8, 2021, at 6:00 PM
- Mary created the public hearing summary to be used at the meeting
- BPC members volunteered to discuss specific plan sections at the public hearing: Ken – Transportation & Facilities, Kathy – Education, Energy, & Implementation, Deb – Historic & Natural Resources, Mary – Housing & Economic Development, Fran – Land Use, Earl – Population & Growth and chair meeting

Kathy and Fran suggested possible meeting topics for September could be updates from Cold Hollow to Canada, and an overview from Fran regarding her attendance at the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan seminar.

Cathy Mander-Adams inquired as to how many more ZOOM meetings might be held by BPC, and when we might return to in-person meetings.

Next regular meeting scheduled **July 8, 2021, at 6:00PM**, at the Belvidere Central School. This meeting will include the public hearing for the revised Town Plan.