

Minutes of Belvidere Planning Commission Meeting

May 12, 2022

Meeting convened at 6:36 PM and adjourned at 7:40 PM. This was an in-person and ZOOM hybrid meeting.

Members present via ZOOM were Ken Adams Jr., Mary Hysick, and Andy Iwaskiewicz; also present via ZOOM was LCPC representative from Belvidere, Carol Caldwell-Edmonds; Kathy Marchant, Deb Baker, and Fran Leavitt were BPC members present in person at the Belvidere Town Clerk's Office; Fran acted as ZOOM host from the Town Clerk's Office.

Fran introduced Andy as the newly appointed BPC member.

Motion by Deb to accept the minutes of the April 14, 2022, meeting as written; second by Kathy; motion carried with Fran abstaining.

ARPA Funds Committee discussion:

- Carol Caldwell-Edmonds informed the meeting that at the last Lamoille Fibernet she attended, some towns indicated they were using ARPA funds to supplement their municipal budgets; if the ARPA award is under A \$10 million threshold it appears towns may use the funds for ordinary expenses. Carol also mentioned that the Belvidere Community Club has submitted a request to the Selectboard to be considered for ARPA reimbursement of lost revenue due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Discussion of the ARPA Advisory Committee guidelines sent to the BPC by the Selectboard; Fran, Mary, Kathy, and Andy volunteered as the four BPC members to be appointed to the committee by the SB once the guidelines are officially adopted by the SB.
- Question raised if ARPA funds could cover costs of any mailings, outreach advertising or administrative costs; group consensus believes it would but felt it best to check with Seth Jensen at LCPC.
- Motion by Mary to post an announcement on Front Porch Forum seeking potential candidates to fill the remaining three positions on the ARPA Advisory Committee; 2nd by Kathy; motion carried, and Mary will share a draft of the posting for members' critique prior to sending it to FPF.

Other items shared by Carol:

- LCPC offered a Power Point training on housing, new zoning bylaws, and development patterns in Vermont that preserves the "village ethos." Carol will forward a copy to the BPC members interested in seeing it. Carol commended the Housing section of the current Belvidere Town Plan for its specificity, given that Belvidere does not have zoning to minimize development "risk." It appears the most pressure for additional housing in Lamoille County is in Morrisville and Stowe.
- Lamoille Fibernet and Google Fiber are undergoing preliminary talks for Google to become the ISP for our CUD; Google seems to be offering competitive pricing.

Under other business Fran informed the meeting that Act 76, recently passed by the Vermont Legislature, offers new funding to reduce phosphorous runoff into Lake Champlain, and Water Quality

Councils are forming for the watershed basins that feed into the lake. Fran has been appointed as an alternate member serving on the Council for the Lamoille River Basin.

Group consensus to continue meetings using an in-person/ZOOM hybrid format.

Motion to adjourn at 7:40 by Deb, second by Kathy; motion carried

Next regular meeting scheduled **June 9, 2022, 6:30PM – 8:00PM**, in person at the Belvidere Town Clerk's Office, and will include a ZOOM hybrid opportunity as well.