

## Minutes of Belvidere Planning Commission Meeting

**October 13, 2022, an in-person and ZOOM hybrid meeting.**

Meeting convened at 6:35 PM and adjourned at 7:24.

BPC members present via ZOOM were Fran Leavitt, Andy Iwaskiewicz, and Mary Hysick; Kathy Marchant, Deb Baker, and Ken Adams were BPC members present in person at the Belvidere Town Clerk's Office, along with Alec Jones from LCPC. No adjustments to agenda.

Motion by Mary to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2022, meeting as written; second by Kathy; motion carried.

Alec informed the meeting that Vermont Emergency Management today announced grant opportunities for municipalities to enhance their Emergency Operations Centers. He is unsure of the application deadline and this grant requires a 50% match from the town.

Alec then presented an overview of the Municipal Planning Grant opportunity currently open for applications (Application deadline is December 1<sup>st</sup>):

- Discussion among those present focused on a feasibility study for the town of Belvidere regarding the creation of reliable cell phone service throughout town.
  - There appears to be a privately owned aerial tower that could house the devices for cell service, but Alec was unsure if an MPG could be used to study the feasibility of utilizing just one privately owned location in town.
  - Consensus of the group was to research all possible locations, private and public, within Belvidere and Alec will research through LCPC as to best way to apply for an MPG grant using this approach. Alec will also research other grant opportunities for this scope of work.
  - Mary suggested that regardless of grant fund availability, the BPC should do all it can to identify any ways that the town could receive better cell service.
  - Andy informed the meeting that Smugglers' Notch Resort Vice President, Mark Delaney, led a team from Smuggs that not only brought cell service to the resort, but also to much of Jeffersonville. Andy agreed to contact Mark to glean information and advice as to how Smugglers' project might be used as a template by Belvidere to pursue its cell service project. Kathy mentioned that Belvidere resident, Stephen King, works in the IT department at Smuggs and might also be a good information source.

ARPA Advisory Committee updates:

- Fran informed meeting she received an email from Selectboard chair, Earl Domina, suggesting that the ARPA Advisory Committee begin scheduling meetings, and Earl asked that the AAC make a formal recommendation of the interested member-at-large candidates to the Selectboard.
- Motion by Mary that the ARPA Advisory Committee members remain following adjournment of the BPC meeting to schedule their initial meeting; second by Andy; motion carried.

Town development issues, mail, and other business received no action.

Motion to adjourn at 7:24 by Deb, second by Mary; motion carried

Next regular meeting scheduled **November 10, 2022, 6:30PM – 8:00PM**, in person at the Belvidere Town Clerk's Office and will include a ZOOM hybrid opportunity as well.