

Minutes of Belvidere Planning Commission Meeting
November 10, 2022 In-person and Zoom Hybrid Meeting

Meeting convened at 6:30 PM and Adjourned at 7:32 PM
BPC member present by Zoom was Mary Hysick. Kathy Marchant, Deb Baker, and Fran Leavitt were present in person at the Belvidere Town Clerk's Office.

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

Motion by Deb Baker to accept the minutes of the October 13, 2022 meeting as written; second by Mary Hysick; motion carried.

Discussion of a possible Municipal Planning Grant (Application Due Dec. 1, 2022) ensued with the report from Fran that the grant is not an option for researching and pursuing cell service for the town. Contacting the Public Service Department is the path to take. From emails exchanged with Ken Adams and Alec Jones Fran reported that the PSD is completing a second study of quality and availability of cell service locations around the state including Routes 109 and 118 in Belvidere. Tasha Wallis from LCPC said that data should be available by November 15th. A question was asked whether that data would be necessary to get some action on cell service for Belvidere.

A suggestion was made to invite the PSD contact Corey Chase to a meeting in December or January as well as an LCPC representative to better understand cell service possibilities for Belvidere. In addition should we invite Carol Edmonds-Edwards?

Further discussion followed about questions to ask regarding cell service: Can cell service be provided for the whole town? Will service occur in phases? What would be the requirements and costs of a system? Is 5G without cell towers an option? Is a private system an option? Is full broadband required to extend cell service to all residents?

It was determined that we need more information from expert sources and that when the Belvidere Selectboard conducts discussions with outside entities who are pursuing Broadband, the BPC should be extended an invitation as cell service might well be connected to Broadband. Finally, it was determined that the BPC should communicate to the SB that we are interested in taking on research about Cell service if that is a viable and supported project.

In discussion regarding the ARPA committee, it was resolved to reschedule a meeting for November 17th at 5:30 PM at the Town Clerk's Office.

In regards to a project related to our existing town plan, it was suggested to post basic data about available public assistance organizations on our town website.

The next meeting of the BPC will be held on December 8, 2022.