

Minutes of Belvidere Planning Commission Meeting

June 15, 2023, an in-person and ZOOM hybrid meeting.

Meeting convened at 6:30 PM and adjourned at 7:29 PM.

BPC member Andy Iwaskiewicz attended by telephone; BPC members Ken Adams, Kathy Marchant, and Deb Baker attended at the Belvidere Town Clerk's Office. Also present at the TCO was Cathy Mander-Adams as host of the ZOOM meeting. No adjustments to agenda.

Motion by Deb to accept the minutes of the May 11, 2023, meeting as written; second by Kathy; motion carried.

No updates regarding future high-speed internet and cell service in Belvidere

ARPA Advisory Committee updates:

- Belvidere resident Paul Nowell was recently appointed to the ARPA Advisory Committee
- The ARPA Advisory Committee plans to research the remaining suggestions submitted by Belvidere residents, which include updating the Town parcel maps, installing children's playscapes, and preservation of the "Old Junction School house"
- Priority among these projects will be those requiring a "one time" expenditure by the Town

New development issues:

- Two unoccupied houses in town have been purchased and are undergoing renovations; ARPA suggestions included purchase and demolition of old unoccupied buildings in town
- Rattling Brook Bluegrass Festival and Belvidere Old Home Day are occurring again this year
- Concern for the invasive species "Japanese Knotweed" and "Poison Parsnip" spurred discussion regarding mitigation; Hyde Park and Cambridge are developing plans for control and mitigation; consensus this is a "global" problem for northern Vermont and a collaborative approach should be considered among LCPC, local and State highway departments, Lake Champlain watershed organizations, Cold Hollow to Canada and ANR; Ken will report on this discussion to the Selectboard

Other business/public comment:

- Ken reported that many new grants are being announced, including a grant that funds administrative support from LCPC to pursue these grants and to implement them at the town level; consensus of the group to invite LCPC reps to the next BPC meeting for further explanation
- Ken reported on the road reclassification project recently completed by the Selectboard
- Discussion regarding current town road conditions, highway budget outlook for rest of this year, and the possibility of grant funding to cover road safety expense such as signage and tree removal

Motion to adjourn at 7:29 PM by Deb, second by Kathy; motion carried

Next regular meeting scheduled **July 13, 2023, 6:30PM – 8:00PM**, in person at the Belvidere Town Clerk's Office and will include a ZOOM hybrid opportunity as well.