

Minutes of Belvidere Planning Commission Meeting

September 14, 2023, an in-person and ZOOM hybrid meeting.

Meeting convened at 6:37 PM and adjourned at 8:00 PM.

BPC members Andy Iwaskiewicz, Kathy Marchant, Ken Adams Jr., and Deb Baker attended at the Belvidere Town Clerk's Office, via ZOOM. Cathy Mander-Adams began ZOOM meeting as host but passed hosting to Andy. Belvidere resident Stephen Brown attended also. No adjustments to agenda.

Motion by Deb to accept the minutes of the August 10, 2023, meeting as written; second by Andy; motion carried.

Updates on Lamoille Fibernet from Kathy:

- Carol Caldwell-Edmonds announced via email that on September 11th the VCBB approved the Lamoille Fibernet / Fidium Fiber application for ARPA funding for internet infrastructure construction. The VCBB considered letters of support for the application approval written by Belvidere residents and the Selectboard as they made their decision.

ARPA Advisory Committee updates:

- The remaining \$11,436 payment was made by the Selectboard from the ARPA fund to the Belvidere Community Club to cover the club's losses from 2020 – 2023 caused by the COVID pandemic.
- The ARPA Advisory Committee advised the SB to pledge \$4500.00 for updating the Town parcel maps; Ken explained that the SB approved payment for same on Sept. 6th from the ARPA fund.
- The ARPA Advisory Committee is discussing the improvement of children's playscapes and walking paths with Lamoille North school administrators; Kathy is waiting to hear from Brian Monaghan's law office regarding deed research for the preservation of the "Old Junction School house"; Kathy and Ken made a field visit to the old schoolhouse in August.
- Kathy circulated copies of the Belvidere Town Plan "Implementation Chapter" to determine if ARPA funds are appropriate to facilitate closure of any implementation items described in the plan.
- Andy suggested that under the "Facilities and Services" section of the Implementation chapter, the BPC should pursue the installation of cell phone "repeater towers" by a contractor such as MacMountain.
- Motion by Kathy asking Andy to draft an invitation to Belvidere's legislators and Christine Hallquist to attend the November BPC meeting to discuss updates regarding cell towers, and to invite MacMountain officials if Christine so advises; 2nd by Deb; motion carried.

Review BPC procedures:

- Consensus to cancel the **October 12, 2023**, meeting due to an anticipated absence of members for a quorum.
- Andy suggested returning to in-person meetings, with ZOOM hybrid meetings as needed.
- Stephen Brown indicated an interest in being appointed to the Belvidere Planning Commission.

- BPC recommends that the Selectboard include “Vacancies for Appointed Officials” on their next meeting agenda; BPC tentative November agenda items to include further discussion of its bylaws, specifically the number of members on the commission.

Other business/public comment:

- Ken mentioned the Route 109 culvert replacement by the Vt. AOT has been postponed until the 2024 construction season due to the state-wide July flooding.
- Andy voiced concern about collision safety and snow removal obstacles regarding the installation of 2 granite pillars in front of the recently renovated McNichols barn on Back Road, which appear to be within the travelled limits of the road. Kathy voiced concern that the road seems to be encroaching on the private property. Ken explained that the current guidelines for determining road rights-of-way designate the center line of the road “as it is travelled today”, and that the Road Commissioner has been in contact with the owner regarding the issue. Also, the Town has a Grant-in-Aid road improvement project for this same stretch of road that will be completed in the 2024 construction season, which has been discussed with the property owner.

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM by Deb, second by Kathy; motion carried

Next regular meeting scheduled **November 9, 2023, 6:30PM – 8:00PM**, in person at the Belvidere Town Clerk’s Office and will include a ZOOM hybrid opportunity as well.