

## **Minutes of Belvidere Planning Commission Meeting**

**May 8, 2025, an in-person and ZOOM hybrid meeting.**

Meeting convened at 6:30 PM and adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Members present at TCO were Ken Adams Jr., Deb Baker, Kathy Marchant, and Stephen Brown. Belvidere resident Tyler Barber attended via ZOOM. Town Clerk Cathy Mander-Adams also attended in person at the TCO. No changes to the agenda.

Motion by Deb to accept the minutes of the April 17, 2025, meeting as written; 2nd by Kathy; motion carried.

Motion by Deb for BPC officers to remain as in 2024: Kathy Marchant -Chairperson, and Ken Adams Jr. - Clerk; Vice-Chair position vacant; 2nd by Kathy; motion carried. Meetings held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at the Belvidere Town Clerk's Office and via ZOOM from 6:30 – 8:00PM.

Discussion of the status of disposition of the Belvidere Elementary School by LNMUUSD:

- Tyler reported on research he had conducted into possible uses of the school building:
  - work-share space for professional / office personnel appears to be plausible, and is further enhanced by the adjoining Town Forest property
  - coffee shop / restaurant typically requires a community base of 5,000 people plus automobile traffic / daily commuters
  - Tyler will research possibility of a microbrewery or cannabis dispensary
  - Tyler offered to research grant opportunities to offset operational expenses of the building; Ken reported that Pam McKenna had presented similar grant info to the Selectboard and suggested that Tyler contact Pam to "compare notes"
- An obvious use of the building is for it to remain as the current Emergency Shelter and Community Space for Town Meetings, receptions, etc., and to relocate the Town Clerk's Office to the school.
- Ideas for future use are focused on generating revenue to offset operational costs
- Other possible uses yet to be researched include business or wellness "retreat" used in conjunction with soon-to-be designated Town Forest, and an operational hub for Cold Hollow to Canada.

Current town development issues and other business: Ken reported that several road improvement projects have been awarded to contractors, and the bidding process is underway for several other grant funded road improvement projects.

Other business / public comment: a delinquent tax sale of a property in Belvidere Ctr. is scheduled for June 18, 2025; the annual Rattling Brook Bluegrass Festival is June 21, 2025, sponsored by the Belvidere Community Club.

Motion by Deb to adjourn at 7:47 PM; 2nd by Kathy; motion carried.

Next regular meeting scheduled **June 12, 2025, 6:30PM – 8:00PM**, in person at the Belvidere Town Clerk's Office and will include a ZOOM hybrid opportunity as well.