

Town of Stamford - Planning Commission (SPC)  
Draft Minutes  
November 20, 2017

Planning Commission Attendees: Stephen Bechtel, Sheila Lawrence (presiding), Dan Potvin, Dave Saldo,  
Absent: Kurt Gamari

Visitor: Steve Greene

Call to order 7:05pm

Review of minutes Oct. 16, 2017.

Dan P. motion to accept, Dave S. second. All in favor.

Steve G. sitting in as curious citizen

Dan P. informed SPC of All Boards Meeting, December 6, @6pm with Jim Barlow to review Open Meeting Laws.

Dave S asked how Dave Tatro works on Select Board when also Head of Road Crew. Dan P reported Dave Tatro has recused himself regarding all matters road related.

Sheila L reported her conversation with Jim Sullivan at BCRC regarding chicken issue. Stephen B read email response from Jim S. on same matter. Dave S. referred to Bylaws 4.2.8 conditional uses in residential districts. Jim S. response referred to 24VSA 4413 that Farming and Agriculture is exempt from local regulations. Need for Clarification discussed, to be determined in future meeting.

Question arose as to meaning of word "Permitted" on p.8 in Bylaws (under 4.2 Conditional uses) – does permitted mean "allowed"? or does permitted mean "need to have a permit"? Question unresolved.

Dave S referenced Right to Farm & Nuisance vs. As of Right Agricultural Zoning handout from previous meeting.  
Discussion of health issues (wells being contaminated, etc.) in relation to zoning setback regulations.

Jim Dupruis a resource on septic issues.

Dan P will contact Jim Sullivan at BCRC to help SPC review By-Laws to be consistent with State regulations.

Dan P. talked about importance of local food availability. Also Jim Sullivan champions this issue.

Dan & Dave want to be on record that they like chickens. Dan stated however, "I will never swerve for a chicken!"

Dan P. suggested re-educating people about private property rights.

Steve Greene mentioned several Vermont towns have chicken ordinances (South Burlington).

Dan P reported that the Select board did approve the Town Plan. Dan P reminded Select board and SPC that the Town plan is more of a set of guidelines. Stephen B thanked Dan P for pushing through the Town Plan with the Select Board.

Discussion of Ordinance vs. By-Law. Bylaws are for zoning only (civil) to comply with State Regulations.

Dan P report the Veterans Day dinner went very well. SPC thanked Dan P for organizing this event.

Question if SPC will have to pay BCRC for Bylaw consultation.

SPC will review budget for next year at next meeting.

SPC will review action on Act 174 with Jim Sullivan at next meeting.

Question arose about the Town's "unofficial" website – does an unofficial website count as an official posting site? Do meeting minutes have to be posted there?

Helen Fields arrived. She related many people get Town news and information through the unofficial website. She related that if SPC had a regular meeting time more people might get involved. Can someone write an article to Town website regarding Act 174 to spark interest?

Motion to adjourn Stephen B, Dan P second. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned 8:40pm

Submitted by Stephen Bechtel