

TOWN OF ESSEX PLANNING COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC) PRESENT:

IN PERSON: Dustin Brusco, Chair; Trefor Williams; Georgia Lavigne and Daniel Parkins.

VIRTUAL: John Mangan, Clerk.

OTHERS PRESENT:

IN PERSON: Katherine Sonnick, Community Development Director; Kent Johnson, Planner; Paula Duke; Deb Ehler-Holland; and Community T.V.

VIRTUAL: Sharon Kelley, Zoning Administrator; Tony (unidentified); Marc Beaupre; Patty Davis; Ken Signorello; Kat (unidentified); Bruce Trudo; and Irene Wrenner.

Chairman Brusco called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted the Commissioners present in the room and virtually.

AGENDA ITEM 1. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

AGENDA ITEM 2: DRAFT TOWN PLAN DISCUSSION:

Katherine Sonnick brought the PC up-to-date with where the working groups are in respect with their review of its respective chapters in the Plan. Sonnick stated that a notable change to the Draft is that the Declaration of Inclusion, as adopted by the Selectboard, has by inserted into the document by weaving in language within the Plan.

Commissioner Williams noted that the Declaration was in the plan twice. Sonnick confirmed noting that it is referenced in the Introduction and in Chapter 2. She conceded that you don't necessarily need the reference twice, however some people skip the Introduction.

Sonnick noted that some new language that was inserted into the plan (lines 110-122) was questioned by Commissioner Mangan. She reported that this was inserted to support a future request for the Town to have a designated Town Center. Commissioner Williams suggested a sentence be added to define the area of a proposed Town Center. Sonnick replied that language was found in Chapter 3 on the proposed area. Another suggestion was provided to place a reference next to the language to look to Chapter 3.

Sonnick also noted that some of the changes seen from the last Draft were submitted by Vice-Chair Knox. She noted that changes from the public were more editorial versus content.

The meeting focused on comments just received from the Economic Development Commission (EDC), to which she has not had a chance to review. Sonnick noted that the EDC still has a small amount of work to provide. Katherine walked through the EDC comments with the Planning Commission.

Staff, the PC and members from the public walked through Chapters 1-4 of the Draft Plan. Sonnick will incorporate the suggestions provided and make them available for the next PC

review.

Sonnick discussed the Public Hearing date for the Draft Plan, noting that the PC can still make changes at the hearing.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Approval of Minutes September 14, 2023.

Commissioner Lavigne MOVED and Commissioner Williams SECONDED a Motion to approve the September 14, 2023, minutes as written. The MOTION passed 5-0.

AGENDA ITEM 4. OTHER BUSINESS:

Sonnick informed the PC that the Selectboard accepted its recommendations regarding fences and garage sales, however asked that the PC relook at these issues, including electric fences, at the next round of amendments.

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION

By: _____
Dustin R. Bruso, Chair