

Town of Stockbridge VT
Planning Commission Meeting
July 12, 2022
7.00 pm
Via Zoom ONLY

Link for Video: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84425659791>

Meeting ID: 844 2565 9791

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1. Meeting Called to Order

Call to order at 7:08 pm EST

Attendance: Kevin Travis, Patricia Hardyman, Regina Toolin, and Louis Chap. Todd Tzraskos (re-joined at 8:09 pm). Guests: Sarah Danly (Working Communities Challenge) and Kyle Katz (TRORC)

2. Minutes Review and Approval

Louis Chap made the motion to approve.

Unanimous approval of minutes from the June 14, 2022, meeting

3. Sarah Danly – (Working Communities Challenge) Consortium of glass roots, economic development, and town government representing 12 towns within the upper river valley received a 3-year grant for \$310,000. There is an option for an additional \$66,000. The WCC focuses on housing for individuals entering the workforce and entrepreneurs. The goal is to develop affordable housing for those early in their careers.

- The project is currently in the planning phase. WCC is building new ways for Town governments, grassroots agencies, and economic development organizations to work together. The grant began in January 2022. During this first year, WCC is building on relationships, reconnecting with the Towns, and exploring our goal(s) as a consortium.
 - Year-1 questions:
 1. Community input: What is needed, new ideas, and feasibility within our communities
 2. What are the housing solutions available?
 3. What resources are required for these solutions?
 - Years 2 & 3 – Will pursue decisions from Year 1.
 - Throughout the 3-year grant, they will offer support to the Towns in the development of their plans.
 - Lead Economic Organizational partners are Economic Development Council (Randolph) and the Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation (White River Junction)
 - Outreach process – a critical Year 1 Activity – a survey of community members regarding their housing issues and preferences.

- WCC may be able to share information collected from Stockbridge residents or individuals who would like to live in Stockbridge.

4. Kyle Katz (TRORC) outlined the planning support that TRORC will provide for the Town Plan.

- Mr. Katz will connect with Ms. Danly to integrate the local economy and housing initiatives with the appropriate sections of our new Town Plan. He noted that the first thought or conversations about new housing often involve single-family standard alone homes. However, some may be looking for accessory housing or an apartment within an existing structure split into multiple apartments.
- Mr. Katz described the planning services proposed by TRORC. This included:
 - Description of how the Stockbridge community survey fits into the planning process.
 - Review of TRORC Process Agreement and Schedule.
 - Potential updates from the 2015 Town Plan
 - Project timeline and meeting dates were reviewed:
 1. Our first work session is tentatively set for mid-September. At this meeting, we review the suggested edits to chapters 1 – 5 of the Town Plan.
 2. 1st public forum is anticipated for late September. It will include a description of the planning process and a presentation of the survey results.
 - Reviewed primary areas of the plan to be reviewed/developed.
- Discussion/Questions from Commission:
 - Mr. Chap noted the push for more housing in VT and cited the guidelines in our current plan. He emphasized the importance of exploring different forms of housing that provide for more efficient use of land and utilities, e.g., housing “complex” with centralized heating, utilities, etc. He observed that housing touches on economic development, and there are few places for new residents to live and work. Absence of sewer and H2O systems limits options. We need to encourage housing options, e.g., re-purposing current structures. However, few old buildings within Stockbridge are available to convert into multi-family-multi-use structures.

5. Next Steps on the Planning Process

- August -- Survey Launch. Selectboard has not reviewed the draft survey.
- Public Forum -- late September.
- Next steps – on schedule for the Town Plan. Recap of the Main to-dos in the short run:
 1. September – review chapters 1 – 5. Mr. Travis will review the suggested edits.
 2. Public forum latter half of September
 3. Kevin will recirculate the draft questionnaire to the Planning Commission.
 4. Share with Selectboard in the next two weeks
 5. Work with Lori Scott (Town Clerk) to compile the lists for residents.
 6. Survey to be in the field by no later than mid-August. To be both online and paper. We need to create posters with a QR code to access the questionnaire.
 7. Target population: Property owners, voters, families with school children, Resident nonvoters. **Outreach is critical.**

6. Other Business

No new business.

7. Meeting Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn – Todd Tzaskos made the motion. Louis Chap seconded. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Minutes by Patricia Hardyman.