

Shrewsbury Planning Commission

AGENDA

March 22, 2022

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Meeting will be held at Shrewsbury Town Office

Shrewsbury Planning Commission

7:00 to 7:15 p.m. Open to public input
Steven Nicholson attended to discuss Meadowlands.
Following public input:

1. Call to order
Meeting called to order at 7:10.
Attendees: Laura Black, and Melissa Reichert.
2. Approval of agenda, review and/or revision
Agenda approved as presented.
3. Rounds and mail (SPC members' updates and review PC mail received).
Melissa discussed the Wetland webinar that she watched, and suggested that maybe we should ask Zapata Courage to come to Shrewsbury sometime to discuss wetland zoning. The Webinar mentioned that the Otter Creek watershed wetlands will be inventoried this fall. She also suggested that we send Adrienne Raymond the new Wetland Screening tool link.
Laura discussed notes from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission meeting that she attended. Of note: Stephanie Bourque presentation on Emergency Management (new Regional Emergency Management Committee to meet on 3-30-22). Several developments in Killington – Hotel, and Phase 1 ski chalet units (156) at Bear Mtn.
4. Acceptance of meeting minutes of March 8, 2022.
Meeting minutes were accepted as written.
The emailing the minutes around before we finalize them worked well so we will continue that practice. Melissa will send draft minutes and planning Commissioners will have a day to review.
5. Proposal to have a Shrewsbury broadband committee
Laura presented a proposal to create a Shrewsbury broadband committee to look at broadband in areas not covered in town. Melissa brought up the issue of using fiber optics which Laura said is covered in the Otter Creek Communication Unified District (CUD). Laura wants to make sure it is affordable for Shrewsbury residents. Steven suggested that Comcast apply for grants to run broadband service to the Shrewsbury residents that they serve. The intent of the committee is to understand and report on all this related information. Laura feels that Shrewsbury should join the Otter Creek CUD. The Planning Commission agreed with the proposal being sent to the Selectboard and requesting this matter to be placed on the next Selectboard agenda (Laura to attend).

6. Schedule meeting with Selectboard, DRB, ZA on UZS Bylaw amendments and Draft Flood Hazard & River Corridor Bylaw.

Laura is going to compile the responses to Adrienne Raymond's comments on the Unified Zoning and Subdivision Regulations (UZS) and send them to her and the DRB. We would like to schedule a Selectboard meeting with the Zoning Administrator and the DRB to go over the proposed changes to the UZS Regulations. Laura will check with Adrienne as to her schedule so she could meet with the Planning Commission and Selectboard. Laura will contact the Selectboard to schedule the planning commission, Adrienne R and DRB at the next earliest convenience for all.

7. Meadowland Overlay – Discuss notes

Melissa brought up an additional Town Plan information in the Critical Wildlife Habitat section 4.3.2.5 that references the importance of open lands as far as habitat. Steven brought up some concerns with some areas in meadowlands that have been developed. Also, that many open lands are not being maintained as meadows and are growing into shrubland since they are not being mowed yearly. He also asked about prime agricultural soils that are wooded and if those are being considered in the zoning. There is a big difference between saving prime and statewide soils and meadowlands.

Melissa suggested that we need to meet with Steve Schilds of Rutland Regional Planning Commission to get a number of questions answered related to the percentage of meadowlands, the size of the meadowlands and where they overlay with prime and statewide agricultural soils as well as wetlands.

Melissa will call Steve Schilds to set up a meeting.

8. 2022 Projects/Tasks (assignment of duties for Town Plan Census update, UZS Maps updates)
Tabled to the next meeting.

Next meeting April 12

Planning Commission, Chair

Date