

Shrewsbury Planning Commission
MINUTES
April 12, 2022
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Meeting was held at Shrewsbury Town Office

Shrewsbury Planning Commission

7:00 to 7:15 p.m. Open to public input – no public was present
Following public input:

1. Call to order
Meeting called to order at 7:10.
Attendees: Laura Black, and Ryan Fitzbeauchamp.
2. Approval of agenda, review and/or revision
Agenda approved as presented.
3. Rounds and mail (SPC members' updates and review PC mail received).
Laura described that scheduling the meeting with Selectboard, DRB, ZA on UZS Bylaw amendments and Draft Flood Hazard & River Corridor Bylaw is ongoing; hoping to get all together in May.
We found that the WiFi was not available for our use; Laura will contact the Town Clerk.
4. Acceptance of meeting minutes of March 22, 2022.
Meeting minutes were accepted as written, with only the title changed (typo- title said "AGENDA").
5. Report on Selectboard discussion on Broadband committee.
Laura reported that the Town Plan's Policy #37 – Economic Activity (page 49) says, "Support the development of high-speed internet service to all properties."
Laura reported on the meeting with the Selectboard. The Selectboard quickly approved the Shrewsbury Broadband Committee consisting of Laura Black and Alan Shelvey. The Selectboard was a bit hesitant about joining the Otter Creek Communications Unified District (OCCUD), but voted unanimously to join after understanding that there is no commitment other than appointing a representative to the OCCUD board, that the Town can withdraw without any penalty, and that joining the CUD means that the Town will have the benefits of the planning and engineering done through the OCCUD as well as access to the funding that is available through the OCCUD. Laura and Alan will prepare a report for the Selectboard with information on the progress of developing high-speed broadband access in Shrewsbury. Laura will attend the OCCUD Board meeting on April 20. Alan has

prepared a letter for the Shrewsbury Times to gather information from residents who are lacking high-speed broadband.

6. 2022 Projects/Tasks (assignment of duties for Town Plan Census update, UZS Maps updates).
[with WiFi unavailable, we were not able to access our current list]. Laura mentioned that with the recent work on broadband, her attention to discussing energy planning is on back-burner. However, some things to keep an eye on regarding energy planning – other towns that are creating Enhanced Energy Plans, the potential siting of commercial solar projects, the equitable access to energy efficiency and energy upgrades for homes/buildings, our response to Vermont’s commitments to renewable energy targets and dates.
7. Proposal to have a Shrewsbury broadband committee.
See item #5.
8. Meadowland Overlay – [with WiFi unavailable, we were not able to access our current list].
On meeting with Steve Schilds – Melissa will schedule, Laura would like to join, Ryan says he would not be able to join, Laura suggests that a future presentation be held on the (draft) maps and information on the process of their development.
We would like to gather other information from the ZA and DRB such as - for example: what quantity of development in meadowlands has been permitted (or denied) in past X years, have there been more (or less) such permit applications, what restrictions were made part of the permits.
We suggest maintaining an ongoing list of issues/questions to include in our process (several of these have already been noted, are referred to in Town Plan and/or are in the current document in dropbox). Mentioned tonight were – value of preserving agricultural lands, aesthetic value, carbon sequestration issue, wildlife value, recreation value, renewable (solar) energy site value.
We discussed the agricultural soils as identified on the Zoning Maps. We mentioned the ANR data maps of prime and state soils but were unable to look at due to no access to WiFi. Ryan noted how different crops and production systems can be successfully utilized in a broader range of soil types than might be labeled Agricultural soils on the soil maps. Mentioned that probably the highest constraints are slope and wet soils (ability to drain). We noted that some agricultural soils areas overlap with wetlands (on maps) – we need to get more information about this condition.
9. Maps - work on list of edits needed for town plan maps.
We planned to work on identifying any/all items that need to be corrected and updated. We will check the current town zoning map documents against the Unified Zoning & Subdivision Regulations; goal is to find and resolve any conflicts.
10. Planning Commission resources -

With WiFi unavailable, we were not able to access and review the list we have in dropbox.
With WiFi unavailable, Laura was not able to access her bookmarked online resources which she had planned to share.
Ryan does not have a hard copy of the Zoning nor Town maps; Laura will get a set of each printed.

Next meeting - April 26

Planning Commission, Chair

Date