

Planning Board Meeting Minutes

Benjamin Eddy Bldg., 6 South Killingly Road
Wednesday, September 21, 2022

A. Call to Order

Anthony Renzi called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

B. Roll Call

Planning Board Members: Mike Carpenter; Warren Ducharme; Susan Joyce; Anthony Renzi; George Sackal; Secretary, Hilary Downes-Fortune.

Excused: David Paolissi

Staff present: Michael Antonellis, Planner; Joanna Achille, Solicitor

Public present: None.

C. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Renzi asked for a motion to approve the September 7, 2022 minutes. Mr. Carpenter made a motion; Mr. Ducharme seconded. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

D. Foster Planning Board Community Survey and Raffle

Mr. Antonellis reported that he generated the following raffle procedure this morning:

- created an anonymous list of participants
- removed any duplicates or invalid responses for name
- used the Excel randomizer to assign a number 1-181 to the remaining respondents.

At the meeting he then entered these numbers into a randomizer to select the five winners and gift cards were “blind” chosen in the order names were selected:

1. #48: Stephen Fillman=Old Man Mercantile & Antiques
2. #149: Jessica Barry=Lucky’s Bar & Pizza
3. #9: Laurie Smith=Ruby Rocks
4. #59: Sharon Quimby=Water Hole/Healey’s Liquors
5. #127: David Lyne=Shady Acres

Mr. Antonellis said he will notify the winners and post the raffle results on the town website.

Discussion then ensued regarding next steps for evaluating and sharing the results of the survey:

- It was noted that 73 respondents stated they own/operate businesses in town, which seems higher than the number of business licenses in town.

- The planning board will provide a written narrative and summary of the results similar to the narrative for the previous town survey found in the old Comprehensive Plan; this summary will be posted along with the Survey Sparrow graphical report on the town website.
- Mr. Antonellis will share the results with the economic development consultant, Camoin, at a meeting on 9/22.
- “Keeping things rural” could still allow for businesses along Route 6 as in Brooklyn, CT if they are kept neat and tidy and appropriate zoning, including signage, is applied.
- Mr. Sackal expressed concern that many of the contaminated sites could become solar farms and said the solar ordinance needs to be strengthened.

E. Economic Development Strategic Plan Steering Committee

--Appoint working group of 2 to 3 Planning Board Members for Economic Development Consultant

Mr. Antonellis stated that he would like to have a working group meet with Camoin next week and asked for volunteers who are available daytimes to meet in person or possibly via Zoom.

Mr. Renzi asked for a motion. Ms. Downes-Fortune made a motion to create an Economic Development Strategic Plan working group and appoint George Sackal, Anthony Renzi, and Susan Joyce to this group to represent the Planning Board’s expectations for the Economic Development Consultant. Ms. Joyce seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

F. Adjournment

Mr. Renzi asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Downes-Fortune made a motion to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilary Downes-Fortune, Secretary