

# Planning Commission Minutes\*

**\*These are unofficial Minutes subject to approval at the next regular meeting.**

April 14, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. and was not digitally recorded.

**P.C. Members Present:** Ann Tiplady (Chair), Derek Farmer, Jill Burkett

**Other Members Present:** Jeff Biasuzzi (Recorder), Ed Bove (Rutland Regional Planning Commission)

**New Business:** None scheduled

## **Old Business:**

The meeting opened with a walk from Town Hall, along School Street, then north along the east side of Main Street (US Route 7), to Meacham Street. The return walk was along the west side of Main Street, to the Library, and back to Town Hall.

Along this route, the following was discussed:

1. How the variety of building setbacks from Main Street impacted visual appeal.
2. The condition and views along the sidewalks, and how hedges and trees may detract from ease and appeal to walkers.
3. How the wide shoulder areas along both sides of the travel lanes was advantageous to parking. Together with the grass strip between the travel lanes and the sidewalks, walking conditions felt relaxed and safe.
4. The numerous traffic/parking signs were considered unappealing. The majority of business signs were considered generally in keeping with the architecture.
5. Two well-used commercial corner locations (the Post Office/Country Store, and the Mobil gas station/former Laundromat) were found lacking visual appeal and even potentially hazardous to pedestrians, due to design, traffic, speed, and lack of cross walks.

Suggestions to improve conditions included contacting VT Department of Transportation and discuss:

- Reducing the number of parking control signs
- Permission to install planters in the grass strip
- Use of the wide shoulders for parking and possible town acquisitions of excess right-of-way areas

The meeting was reconvened at the Town Office and plans for the May 10, 2014 (10:00 a.m.) Village "Walk and Talk" were reviewed (May 17, 2014 is the "back-up" date). Advertising in Front Porch Forum, the Wallingford News, posters, and public newspapers could be funded by the Grant. Also, a direct mail letter to property owners along the route should inform them of the event and encourage their participation.

The minutes of January 13, 2014 (revised), February 10, 2014 (unofficial, for lack of a quorum), and March 10, 2014 were reviewed and approved by all P.C. members.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey M. Biasuzzi, Administrator

Approved by P.C., as amended