

Any questions, comments or concerns about the minutes should be addressed to Amy Giroux, Zoning Administrator at (802) 868-3325

**MINUTES
TOWN OF SWANTON
SWANTON PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Town Office Building
1 Academy Street, Swanton, VT 05488
Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.**

Present: Ed Daniel, Chair; Ross Lavoie, Vice Chair; Heather Buczkowski, Oliver Manning (Call-in), Members; Amy Giroux, Zoning Administrator; Joseph Cava, Administrative Assistant; Corey Parent, Forty-Four Seven Strategies, LLC; Elizabeth Nance, FCIDC

*All motions carried unanimously unless specified otherwise.

1. Call to Order – Mr. Daniel called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Agenda Review
3. Review of minutes of September 21, 2022

Mr. Lavoie made a motion to approve the draft minutes from the 9/21/22 Planning Commission meeting, seconded by Ms. Buczkowski. Motion carried.

4. Final Plans for Community Visioning Meeting

Mr. Parent opened by discussing a draft of a survey of potential questions to distribute to community members. Mr. Lavoie recommended changing the verbiage of geographic location to proximity. Ms. Nance added that commute is also good verbiage to understand the importance of geographic location. Ms. Buczkowski asked for clarification on whether this proposed survey was modeled after Hinesburg, VT's? Mr. Parent responded yes, adding that Swanton shares many similarities to Hinesburg. Ms. Giroux added continuing through the survey that Hog Island and West Swanton are one in the same and should be edited. Mr. Daniel asked for clarification on manufacturing and whether to differentiate between light and commercial. Mr. Parent explained that retail operations take the place of commercial enterprise.

Mr. Daniel followed up about asking about water quality and public access. Ms. Buczkowski raised a point about greater accessibility within the community. This includes accessible parking, curb stops to prevent cars from parking over sidewalks, and accessibility to businesses. On this topic of access, Mr. Daniel brought up signs to address businesses, parking, and local attractions. Mr. Parent summarized this point as way finding. Continuing, Mr. Parent spoke about natural/cultural resources that should be given greater attention to. An example is preserving a ridgeline against wind powered turbines that would otherwise ruin the scenic landscape. In addition to physical attributes, Ms. Buczkowski recommended adding air quality to minimize noise pollution.

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The conversation then shifted to speaking about municipal government and services. Ms. Buczkowski asked about expanding electrical services? Mr. Parent clarified that the existing infrastructure is already in place and greater importance should be given to water and sewer infrastructure. Mr. Parent recommended considering a local options tax to prevent burdening the Swanton taxpayers for long range planning projects or emergency repairs.

Backtracking to the Southern Growth District, Mr. Parent recommended having a representative from the Selectboard or the Planning Commission to discuss this. Mr. Lavoie recommended Earl on the Selectboard because he has been engaged with key discussions with St. Albans concerning this area. Continuing, Mr. Lavoie also recommended engaging property owners within the area of the Southern Growth district to participate. Ms. Buczkowski asked about the Town and Village converging? Mr. Parent expressed that this is a far more complicated issue than could be addressed by a town plan. Ms. Nance echoed Mr. Parent's thoughts saying that this is a larger political issue that is beyond the scope of consolidating the Town and Village. Mr. Lavoie noted that the demographic of Town versus Village in the survey is important to understand what people want to see in Swanton and how the demographic influences thought processes.

5. Set Next Planning Commission Meeting Date

Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

6. Public Comment – None

7. Any Other Necessary Business – None

8. Adjournment

Mr. Lavoie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m., seconded by Mr. Manning. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Cava
Administrative Assistant

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Ed Daniel, Chair

Ross Lavoie, Vice Chair

Andy LaRocque

Oliver Manning

Heather Buczkowski