

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, February 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

Present: Ed Daniel, Chair; Andy LaRocque, Oliver Manning, Heather Buczkowski, Members; Amy Giroux, Zoning Administrator; Joseph Cava, Administrative Assistant; Corey Parent, Forty-Four Seven Strategies, LLC

*All motions carried unanimously unless specified otherwise.

1. Call to Order – Mr. Daniel called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Agenda Review
3. Review of minutes of February 1, 2023

Ms. Buczkowski made a motion to approve the draft minutes from the 2/1/23 Planning Commission meeting, seconded by Mr. LaRocque. Motion carried.

4. Municipal Plan Review

Continuing from where the PC left off on Chapter Nine of the Municipal Plan, Mr. Parent opened the review by summarizing the previous meeting. The review included educational assets to Swanton including key partnerships with outside educational institutions including CCV, Northern Vermont University at Johnson and Lyndon, and University of Vermont. This transitioned into a discussion around daycare. Daycare capacities in Swanton have since decreased due to new laws and regulations dictated by the State of Vermont. This has led to a decline in at-home daycare facilities around Swanton.

Mr. Parent moved onto Chapter Ten: Historic and Cultural Resources, and emphasized the importance of improving the subjective language within this chapter. One example was switching the piece about Native American cultural sites to Abenaki cultural sites to acknowledge Swanton's specified indigenous history. This led to other recognitions for groups that support the community including the Swanton Arts Council. The discussion then diverged into the historical nature of the built environment. Mr. Daniel raised the importance of recognizing historical sites and structures within the community.

Mr. Parent continued by expanding the topic of recreation and its relationship to local parks, youth sports programs, and the development of a community center. This led into other topics including adult recreation opportunities including local programs offered like Zumba classes. The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail will now begin in Swanton and ends in St.

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Johnsbury. Ms. Buczkowski added that trails like the Dick Thompson Fit & Healthy path that is paved is catered to individuals with physical disabilities that would otherwise be excluded. Mr. Parent expanded upon the local natural areas including the State and Federal nature areas like the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge.

Switching gears, Mr. Parent talked about the compatibility of Chapter Twelve with other surrounding towns including Alburgh, Highgate, and St. Albans. Mr. Manning recommended adding in a piece about Route 207 where the Southern Growth District is located to emphasize this relationship as it pertains to future development. Continuing, Mr. Parent added that in addition to roads, Swanton is linked to surrounding communities by bridges and major waterways which set it apart from other communities that are land locked.

Following the run through of the Municipal Plan, Mr. Parent highlighted Hinesburg's municipal plan and things he would like to incorporate into Swanton's to summarize the most important points.

5. Set Next Planning Commission Meeting Date

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

6. Public Comment - None

7. Any Other Necessary Business - None

8. Adjournment

Mr. LaRocque made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Manning. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Cava
Administrative Assistant

Ed Daniel, Chair

Ross Lavoie, Vice Chair

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Andy LaRocque

Oliver Manning

Heather Buczkowski