

Montpelier Planning Commission Meeting January 13, 2020

Subject to review and approval

This public meeting was recorded, and the video will be available for viewing at this link:
<https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1094/CivicClerk>

Present: Ariane Kissam, Stephanie Smith, Kirby Keeton, John Adams, Aaron Kisicki, Marcella Dent, Michael Miller.

Absent: Barbara Conrey.

Call to order by the Chair: The meeting was called to order by Kirby.

Approval of the agenda: Aaron asked to add to the agenda after the minutes an update from Mike on the proposed changes to Act 250. Marcella made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition suggested, Ariane seconded. The motion passed on a 6-0 vote with no abstentions.

Comments from the Chair: Kirby wanted to ask if everyone got the invitation to the reception on January 30 from 5:00 -7:00 PM. Please RSVP as soon as possible to jlamb@montpelier-vt.org.

General business (comments from the public about something not on the agenda): Whitney Shields was in attendance to observe and give feedback on food policy and access.

Consider minutes from December 9, 2019: Mike will be reaching out to Montpelier Alive!, not Kirby, but that does not need to be corrected in the minutes. Ariane made a motion to approve the minutes, Marcella seconded. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote, with Stephanie abstaining since she wasn't in attendance.

Update on the proposed changes to Act 250 (addition to the agenda): On the legislative agenda this year, there is talk of modernizing Act 250. One of the items is exempting downtowns and Aaron wanted to know if Mike's office is keeping track of this item and has an opinion on it.

Mike said it raises the threshold for certain projects, like housing. There was nothing in the proposal that Mike was opposed to. There are other bills pending that he is keeping his eye on, one increases funding for housing and the other to allow municipalities to regulate AirBnBs. He has someone who keeps track of legislation and reports back to the city.

City Plan – review and discussion of the Housing & Neighborhoods chapter: The arts & culture and community services are waiting to start in February.

Economic development is waiting for a new director. Dan from Montpelier Alive! is willing to work with Mike on it.

Mike is will working with the energy committee. They've finalized everything but he'll be meeting with the subcommittee at the end of January. He'll be meeting with them in February to get everything approved.

Governance will be starting in February. Mike will be working with the new Assistant City Manager.

HPC is meeting tomorrow night – that should come back to the Planning Commission in February.

The Housing Committee got some feedback from the Planning Commission so they're still working on that.

Land Use will need to the done by the Planning Commission.

Mike met once with Natural Resources, he was supposed to meet again in December, but weather prohibited him from attending.

The Parks Commission could fall under natural resources or community services or a little bit of both.

Public Safety and CJC will be worked on in February.

Mike has met with transportation a number of times; he's meeting with the subcommittee this week to draft the goals and strategies. They've already approved their aspirations.

Utilities and facilities don't have a committee. Mike has that chapter done, he just has to meet with the city engineer to review the draft.

Mike hopes to have them all done by June.

Reminder about the public hearing on the design review regulations for the next meeting: Kirby can't make the February 24 meeting. Kirby will try to send out reminders on updates on the new regs. Mike has letters ready to send out to people in the design review or being added to the regs areas.

Adjournment: John made a motion to adjourn, Stephanie seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Tami Furry
Recording Secretary