

Planning Commission Meeting
January 16, 2017
Community Room
7:00PM

Meeting called to order at 7:00PM.

Commissioners present were Chair Fitzhugh Donahue, Goodrich (absent), Rhoades, Supplee (absent), and Fitzhugh.
Schulz was present as Interim Zoning Administrator / Clerk.

Approval of Minutes of 12-16-16

Motion by Rhoades, second by Donahue to approve the minutes. Donahue noted that the section on the Conservation Commission regarding buffers should be clarified such that the Commission did not suggest that the buffers are needed, but rather the subject warrants additional review and discussion. **The motion, with the statement passed 3-0-0.**

Zoning Administrator Interview

Fitzhugh stated that the Planning Commission needs to fill the Zoning Administrator position that has been vacant for a year and a half. Fitzhugh noted that Stephen Hatch has applied for the position and is here to meet with the Commission. Fitzhugh also noted that Hatch served as the Town Zoning Administrator for about 7 years. Next, Fitzhugh read a letter of support from Art Supplee recommending Hatch for the position. Hatch noted that he served previously as the Zoning Administrator and is willing to serve again to fill the void.

The Commission discussed with Hatch his background and experience as Northfield's Zoning Administrator.

Next, Northfield resident and Town Lister Chris Bradley spoke in support of Hatch as Zoning Administrator stating that he has experience as a previous Zoning Administrator and has significant knowledge of Northfield.

Town Plan Update and Energy Section

Fitzhugh noted that with the completion of the Zoning Bylaw update, the Commission should begin the Town Plan update process. In addition, he noted that the energy section the plan is important considering recent changes in Vermont Statutes regarding the siting of renewable energy facilities. As a result, and because of his position on the Electric Commission, he is willing to assist with the energy section of the plan. Fitzhugh suggested that the Commission members prepare recommendations and a list of goals for the plan up-date process.

Next, Schulz stated that he prepared a memo to the Select Board and sent it along with the revised Zoning Bylaws to Board for public hearings in February and March.

Executive Session – Personnel

The Commission agreed to enter executive session to discuss the Zoning Administrator position.

Motion by Donahue, seconded by Rhoades to enter into an executive session to discuss the Zoning Administrator position. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**

Motion by Rhodes, second by Donahue to exit the executive session. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**

Motion by Rhoades, second by Donahue to recommend that the Select Board appoint Stephen Hatch as the Zoning Administrator. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.