

**Town of Cavendish Public Hearing
Meeting Minutes August 30, 2023
Cavendish Town Office, 37 High Street, Cavendish, VT and Zoom**

Members Present: Tim Calabrese, Shirley Clark, Bruce McEnaney, Noah Schmidt, and Miguel Seville.

Members Absent: Jeffrey Strange

Select Board Liaison Present: Stephen Plunkard

Members of Public: Cyrus Grogg, Rick Chambers (Town Manager), Margo Caulfield, Abraham Gross, Jason Rasmussen (Mount Ascutney Regional Commission), Peter Van Gerder (Okemo Valley Television)

Tim Calabrese called the hearing to order at 6:32pm.

Tim explained that this hearing is an extension of the hearing from the last meeting. The only changes have been a suggestion from Margo to prelude the energy chapter. This section reads as follows:

“Cavendish recognizes both the significant impact of climate change, and the need to be proactive in reducing our environmental footprint. To that end, while we include the state of Vermont’s “Comprehensive Energy Plan” (CEP) as part of the Cavendish Town Plan, we qualify this inclusion as follows:

- Cavendish is a small town, with limited resources, and will adhere as it can to the goals and objectives this Enhanced Energy Plan.
- As we believe in environmental responsibility, products should be sourced from companies where
- working conditions are safe and secure, workers are paid a living wages and the environment in which
- the workers operate is not being destroyed by mining and extraction.
- In addition to the renewable forms of energy from solar, wind and hydro, we urge the state to seriously consider other alternative energy sources
- that are clean, safe and reliable as new technologies
- have advanced to the point where they
- are practical and cost effective.

Miguel made a motion to approve the Enhanced Energy Chapter as written. Shirley Seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Tim will pass this along to the selectboard.

Town of Cavendish Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes August 30, 2023
Cavendish Town Office, 37 High Street, Cavendish, VT

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Members Absent: Jeffrey Strange

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1. Call to Order

Tim Calabrese called the meeting to order at 6:35.

2. Adjust Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

3. Approve Meeting Minutes

Shirley made a motion to pass the minutes as written. Migeul Seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Hear Citizens

None

5. New Business:

- a. Consider writing a letter of support for Grafton Village Cheese application for a Community Recovery and Revitalization Grant.**

Karen Murray from Grafton Cheese spoke about their project in the old Black River Produce building. They will be creating a retail store and move their packing plant to the building. They plan to move in by December. Members of the commission asked some questions and expressed support for the project.

Bruce made a motion that the Planning Commission support and draft a letter of support for their grant application. Migeul seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Representatives from Mt Ascutney Regional Commission present to discuss Flood Hazard Regulations.

Jason outlined the current Flood Hazard Regulations. He said the town has had some sort of flood regulations since the 80s. He said after Tropical Storm Irene there was a bunch of research done around rivers and mitigating flood damage. That data helped inform the updated regulations that were approved in 2016. He said they can be very complicated and folks should have questions. He provided two maps to help demonstrate what these areas are. There are two areas that FEMA classifies the flood way and another which is just outside called a number of things but Jason refers to it as the FloodPlain. There is another map that shows the River Corridor, this area is where major erosion is likely to occur and where rivers.

Bruce wanted to mention on record that the hydroelectric dam has caused flooding in this town. He explained some of the setbacks and mitigation efforts have been filled in and there is no place for the water to go.

Rick said that the state is aware of this issue and are taking steps to solve this problem.

Jason explained that the flood Hazard Regulations are here to help influence development. It is to advise new development, discourage it in flood areas, and help existing property owners to rebuild or mitigate future damage. The Planning Commission is there to review any applications. Many people might not know they need permits for work in flood areas. The town and planning commission are there to enforce it but education will be a major part of that.

The commission discussed the details around what their roles were in specific instances and what types of projects might apply.

c. Review Draft Subdivision Regulations

Jason provided draft subdivision regulations that were requested last meeting and suggested the commission start with Article 2. There are a lot of procedures that the planning commission can take a look at. The commission will go over Section 2 for the next meeting and review together during the next meeting.

6. Old Business:

- a. Continue discussion on affordable housing and the recent enactment known as the Housing Opportunities Made for Everyone or HOME Act – which is intended to enable more significant progress addressing Vermont’s housing shortage.**

Jason said we are still in a holding pattern as regional planning continues their housing study.

7. Review Correspondence

None. Tim said next meeting Fletcher Farm will be coming to the board to write a letter of support.

8. Adjourn

Migeal made a motion to Adjourn at 7:57 Bruce seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Noah Schmidt