

Planning Commission Minutes
April 18, 2023

Present: Donna Boumil (chairperson), Brian Tjelta, Renee Creller, Tom Jacobsen, John Chesarek, Erik Ramakrishnan

Item No. 1: The agenda was approved as adjusted. (M (BT)/S (JC)/C).

Item No. 2: Minutes of the March 21, 2023 meeting were approved. (M (ER)/S (JC)/C).

Item No. 3: Recreational signs. Motion approved by the Commission (M (ER)/S (RC)/C):

(1) Subject to further study of the issue, the Planning Commission is supportive of the placement of signage identifying Town-owned recreation facilities as follows:

- Bicentennial Park: Following the erection of playground facilities, the Commission will further consider the need for signage directing members of the public to the park. In the meantime, the Planning Commission supports ongoing efforts by a volunteer to create a wooden sign identifying the park to be located above the stage.

- Trailhead (Industrial Park Road): The Commission is supportive of two state-owned signs (i.e., Official Business Directional Signs, or OBDS) to be located by the AOT on US-2 directing members of the public to the trailhead. The cost to install the signs would be \$175, with a \$100 annual maintenance charge. Location of signage would be subject to approval by the state since the signs will be owned and installed by the state, but a recommended eastbound/southbound location would be near the school, with a recommended westbound/northbound location near Vantine Avenue. Additional brown recreation signs with arrows are recommended at Industrial Park Road on each side of the road sign for Industrial Park Road. Parking signs may be appropriate on Town-owned land at the trailhead itself.

- Lakeshore Park at East Shore Beach: OBDS as described above are proposed on Vt-78 westbound at the end of the causeway and eastbound before TH-13, directing members of the public to East Alburgh Beach & Trailhead.

- Signage along the cross-town trail may be appropriate at MacGregor Point Trail Junction to direct hikers and bikers off the snowmobile trail.

(2) John Chesarek is authorized to continue to communicate with the state about signage on behalf of the Planning Commission, including to request a state contribution for OBDS designating the trailhead insofar as it is owned in part by the state.

(3) The Planning Commission will continue to gather information about this issue and may make further and final recommendations to the Selectboard.

Item No. 4: Economic Development Subcommittee. The subcommittee reported on its upcoming Economic Development Forum, scheduled for May 30, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. at Alburgh Golf Links. The Commission voted to approve \$350 from the Commission's budget for the event. (M (DB)/S (JC)/C).

Item No. 5: Parks and Recreation. Flyers were distributed about an Agency of Transportation grant for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements and a separate grant opportunity through the Agency funded through federal aid.

A discussion was had about applying for state funds to provide lighting, sidewalk improvements, and bike striping on Industrial Park Road with an “add alternate” (funding permitting) to improve access via Carle Street to the Trailhead.

A discussion was also had about applying for federal funds to scope a possible paved path to the future clubhouse.

The Commission voted to authorize Tom and John to present these options to the Select Board at its next meeting. (M (BT)/S (JC)/C).

Item No. 6: Informational Items.

Donna provided an informational item about short-term bike storage racks. A company is advertising a design for high quality, attractive short-term bike storage racks, and this type of parking might be something the Economic Development Subcommittee can promote, both to encourage transportation alternatives in Alburgh and to beautify the community.

An update on the Industrial Park was provided. The wetland delineation is ongoing. The Town has agreed to buy the land. The Corporation intends to repave a portion of Industrial Park Road prior to the transfer. Any leftover funds can be used to pay for future upkeep of the roadway.

Budget update: \$6,000 is expected to be budgeted to the Commission in FY 2023/24. Available funds are estimated at around \$8,000.

The Town Plan update is due in the autumn of 2024. Donna is working with Northwest Regional Planning to provide a contract to update the plan for the Town. That will then be sent to the Selectboard for review. The Commission will then meet with Regional Planning staff as can be arranged, and they will help set up public meetings to provide input on the update.

Item No. 7: The Commission adjourned at 9:00 p.m.