

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES JANUARY 23, 2019

Draft

3:00 pm – Roy (Butch) Wardwell, Owen Astbury & Brian Bontrager (arrived at 3:30pm)
Lynne Bertram, Selectboard Member, Nancy Robinson, Clerk
Richard Amore, VT Dept. of Housing and Community Development
Jessica Richter, TRORC
Charles Shackleton, Gloria Martin and Vicky Young

Meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm.

Richard gave a brief overview of the Village Designation Program and application process. Village Center Designation supports local revitalization efforts by providing technical assistance and state funding to help designated communities build strong communities. Village Designation allows income producing businesses and non-profit organizations (does include municipalities and religious entities) to be eligible for village center tax credits.

The tax credit program supports building and code improvements such as exterior improvements, plumbing and electrical upgrades, elevators and sprinkler systems and HVAC systems.

Municipalities are given higher consideration for grants when they have Village Designation. Richard also discussed the application process. Jessica had maps of the Bridgewater Village area as well as the Bridgewater Corners area, as both sections of town qualify for Village Designation and process for applying for both areas at the same time would be advantageous to the town. Discussed boundary of designated area. Boundary needs to “anchor” a commercial or business on each end. Village designated area might begin at the restaurant on the west end of town and end at the town line/Mill Mall. East end of Mill Mall located in Woodstock could be added on later as a line adjustment after consultation with the Town of Woodstock. The Bridgewater Corners designated area might begin at Long Trail Brewery to the Corners Store area and then across the river to the town garage and grange area.

3:50 pm Richard, Jess and Planning Commission members left to do a walk through of the village and then travel to the Bridgewater Corners to walk through that area.

Next step will be for Richard to meet with the Selectboard to review the process and application.

Nancy and Richard will set up a meeting date in February.

Nancy stayed at office until 4:15 pm to make sure that no one appeared for what was warned for a 4:00 pm meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Robinson

Nancy Robinson,
Clerk