

**TOWN OF STAMFORD**  
**PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING**  
**September 23, 2019**  
**(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Planning Commission: Aaron Malachuk, Chair, Kurt Gamari, Helen Fields, Daniel J. Potvin, and Jenifer Hughs.

Stephen Bechtel participated by phone.

Sheila Lawrence, Steve Denault and David Saldo were not present.

Visitors: Stephen Greene and James Stimpson.

Lori Shepard, Secretary.

Aaron Malachuk called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. and opened with the pledge of allegiance.

#### BENNINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL COMMISSION GRANT

Helen Fields spoke with Catherine Bryars from the BCRC who couldn't attend tonight's meeting. The BCRC is hoping the Planning Commission will endorse its application for grant funding and commit to participating in BCRC's proposed regional housing by-laws study. For this project, BCRC will survey current housing regulations in the downtown and village center areas of its member municipalities and make specific recommendations for by-law improvements to help each community achieve goals for more quality, diverse housing in historic centers. They will analyze housing challenges, opportunities and policies in town and summarize their findings in a final report. Helen Fields stated that we are not required to act on or implement any of their recommendations and there is no financial commitment. MOTION by Aaron Malachuk to endorse the BCRC's application for grant funding for this project.

SECONDED by Dan Potvin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### MINUTES

MOTION by Dan Potvin to accept the regular meeting minutes of August 26, 2019 as written.

SECONDED by Jenifer Hughs. All in favor (except Helen Fields who abstained since she did not attend the meeting). Motion APPROVED.

#### HIGH SPEED INTERNET

At the last meeting the commission discussed inviting Chris Lynch from Matrix Design Group to a meeting to present information on its high-speed fiber network proposal. Aaron Malachuk thought the board should concentrate on finishing the by-laws first. Dan Potvin said Chris Warren from the Selectboard is contacting Mr. Lynch for more information. The board felt it is important to include the Broadband Group in future discussions. The Planning Commission will wait to see what the Selectboard finds out.

MOTION by Helen Fields to let the Selectboard know that the Planning Commission supports the pursuit of this type of research. SECONDED by Jenifer Hughs. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

#### DISCUSSION OF ZONING BY-LAWS

After a lengthy discussion concerning section 4.1.3, the board decided not to make any changes concerning the size of signs. They skipped 4.1.4 and will save review of that item for another night when there was more time. They discussed section 4.1.5 concerning the sale of merchandise by a resident out of their home. Jim Stimpson felt the board should not keep anything that cannot be enforced and suggested taking out the 30% allowable floor space restriction. The board wants to encourage business in town but also does not want to lose the rural nature of our town.

MOTION by Aaron Malachuk to adjourn. SECONDED by Jenifer Hughs. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.  
The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Aaron Malachuk  
Planning Commission Chair

AM/las