

DRAFT MINUTES  
PLANNING COMMISSION – ST JOHNSBURY VERMONT  
July 22, 2014

2:00 Tour of St. Johnsbury Neighborhoods beginning at Pomerleau Building

Commission members present: Susan Cherry, Maurine Hennings, Ben Copans, Jim Brown

At 2:00 the tour of St. Johnsbury village centers and neighborhoods began at Pomerleau Building with Caitlin Corkins, John Adams, Richard Amore with the Vermont agency of Commerce and Community Development. A tour of East St Johnsbury was done looking at the potential for village Center designation with participation from local residents. This was followed by a tour of St Johnsbury Center with a discussion of local history and commercial activity.

7:00 pm Special meeting

1187 Main Street – Public Safety Conference Room

Commission members present: Susan Cherry, William Nickerson, Maurine Hennings, Ben Copans, Jim Brown

Chair Susan Cherry convened the meeting at 7:00 PM

- 1) Meeting minutes from the May 20<sup>th</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup> planning commission meeting minutes were reviewed and minor edits provided. Maurine Hennings made a motion to approve the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes with corrections which was seconded by Jim Brown. Motion passed. William Nickerson made a motion to approve the June 17<sup>th</sup> minutes with changes seconded by Jim Brown. Motion passed.
- 2) Caitlin Corkins, John Adams, Richard Amore provided presentations of the village center designation, neighborhood development areas and tax credits available through these designations as well as the downtown designation that St Johnsbury already has in place. Village centers are intended to define commercial portions of village centers and both East St Johnsbury and St Johnsbury Center have limited areas of commercial activity so the downtown board would likely require small areas be designated initially. It is possible to expand boundaries of village centers at any time if new commercial activity occurs. There were also discussions of why floodplain areas could not be included in neighborhood development areas and if the floodplain areas are mapped in the ANR Atlas which includes areas within a half mile of downtowns that are open for this program.
- 3) The election of officers was held. Maurine Hennings nominated Susan Cherry to serve as Chair of the planning commission which was seconded by William Nickerson. Motion passed for Susan Cherry to serve as Chair. William Nickerson nominated Ben Copans to serve as Vice-Chair which was seconded by Jim Brown. Motion passed. Ben Copans made nominated William Nickerson to serve as Clerk which was seconded by Jim Brown. Motion passed
- 4) Jim Brown made a motion to go into executive secession to discuss a letter of interest to serve on the Planning Commission seconded by Ben Copans. Motion passed. Upon leaving the executive

secession Susan Cherry reported that the board recommended that Brad Alexander be put before the selectboard for appointment to the Planning Commission.

- 5) Maurine Hennings made a motion to adjourn seconded by Jim Brown. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Copans

Secretary, St Johnsbury Planning Commission