

Shrewsbury Planning Commission
MINUTES
September 24, 2024
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Shrewsbury Town Office
9823 Cold River Rd., Shrewsbury VT

Shrewsbury Planning Commission

7:00 to 7:15 p.m. Open to public input

Following public input:

1. Call to order
Meeting called to order at 7:05
Member Attendees: Laura Black, Conner Self, and Melissa Reichert
Guest Attendee: Rosemarie Dobler
2. Approval of agenda, review and/or revision
Agenda approved as presented
3. Acceptance of meeting minutes of September 10, 2024
Meeting minutes accepted as written.
4. Rounds and mail (SPC members' updates and review PC mail received)
Melissa brought up questions from Mary Smith about building permits – they are kept in Town Office and the digital land records. Also question about a cell tower. Laura confirmed that there are no Section 248a applications for a cell tower in Shrewsbury (nor anywhere in Rutland County) as of this date. (Note that the SPC chair, Laura B., serves on the Regional Committee of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission where all Act 250 and Section 248a applications in Rutland County are reviewed).
Laura asked at Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) about the tiers for development information that it is on the Department of Housing and Community Development website. She will review the website. The RRPC also changed the dues policy for the RRPC and now bases it on town population. Laura is encouraging the RRPC to consider the importance of smaller economies (employers) in the smaller population towns of Rutland County when developing the economic section of the Rutland Regional Plan.
5. Meeting minutes of 9/10/2024 accepted as written.
6. Class 4 road meeting with Selectboard
Laura provided the review comments of the Class 4 road policy by the Selectboard at their last meeting. They appreciated having the statute citations. We reviewed the suggestions. Item V.3c is

related to the Shade Tree Preservation plan that is in the process of being developed; the SPC will discuss this item further. R. Dobler expressed that the Policy appeared to be clearly written and appeared to have considerable work behind it.

7. Canada Lynx update

Melissa still needs to contact the game warden but the lynx has been reported in Mendon.

8. Town Plan revision strategy

Laura will take the lead to develop a strategy. Connor suggested a phased workplan could be helpful.

9. Community Value Mapping

Laura has started putting the comments into a spreadsheet. Connor noted the quantity and quality of comments may reflect on places important to the attendees. Laura's spreadsheet will show how often a place was mentioned. Connor noted how much energy was put into the scenic values and suggested that could justify our work on the Scenic Resources section of the Town Plan.

~~10. Plan for next year~~ (see item 11)

11. To do list review – Laura proposed (at 9/10 meeting) that the 'To Do' items be accomplished in this session of the SPC and requested that we delete the agenda item, 'Plan for next year'.

- Scenic Resources - Melissa
- Town Plan Maps discussion - Conner
- Meadowlands review – Ryan

We reviewed Ryan's summary of the meadowland situation. The bylaws need to strike a balance with use of meadowlands including the use for solar panels. What are our objectives in preserving the meadowlands – is it agriculture, scenic, wildlife. Connor questioned the 2-acre designation of meadowlands and whether all/some meadowlands were also mapped as prime or statewide ag soils. Laura mentioned that the Conservation Commission could be contacted for input on whether 2 acre (or what size?) meadowland had consequence for wildlife habitat. Laura will look at whether RRPC has (Section 248a review) criteria for tradeoff/balance between ag soils and solar sites.

Next meeting October 8

12. Adjourn

Planning Commission, Chair

Date