

Bridport Planning Commission Meeting

Date: April 11, 2023

Location: Bridport Town Office

Member Attendance: Pierre Bordeleau, Renée Brodeur, Adam Broughton (Chair), Sharron Macklin, Edward Payne, and Drexel Wheeler

General Public: Justin Busby, Jenna Koloski (VCRD), Steve Myrick, Mary Paquette

Call to Order: Chair Adam Broughton called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Secretary's Report: Members approved the February 2023 meeting minutes. Sharron Macklin made a motion to approve and Drexel Wheeler seconded the motion. The member vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

New Business:

- Subdivision hearing: This was the second hearing for the proposed Major Subdivision of the parcel owned by Robert Myrick Sr.'s Family Trust on Middle Road. Neighbor Justin Busby reviewed the plans. Discussions about power, water, and driveway placement ensued. All these will evolve as needed during the property development. None require BPC approval. It was noted that the mylar of the final plat must be submitted within 180 days, a deviation from the Bridport Subdivision Regulations. A motion was made by Drexel Wheeler to accept the final plat. Edward Payne seconded the motion. A unanimous vote by the BPC members approved the motion. Chair Adam Broughton signed the subdivision application and submitted it to the Zoning Board (Steve DeCarlo). Adam will send a confirmation letter to the Myrick estate.
- Community Visit program discussion by Jenna Koloski of the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD): Jenna Koloski is the Community Engagement and Policy Director at the VCRD. She was invited to speak about their Community Visit (CV) program. Jenna provided some handouts including a description of the CV program and final reports from other VT towns that have participated in the CV program. The Brownington report was most interesting since that town is very similar in size to Bridport. Highlights from Jenna's discussion included:
 - The CV program is a series of four community meetings to identify and prioritize challenges and issues within the community. The meetings are facilitated by VCRD but all decisions are made by the community. At the final meeting, action plans and next steps are identified for the top 2-3 projects selected by the community members. There is no limitation on project scope and cost. VCRD will provide a Visiting Resource Team to provide advice in formulating a project plan and to help identify resources for success.
 - VCRD is a neutral organization that will facilitate the CV program. They will ensure community engagement in the entire process and will connect the community to other agencies (federal, state, private) for funding and advisory resources for projects selected by the community.

- VCRD assumes all costs (approximately \$45,000) to facilitate the CV program within our community. Bridport is responsible for the cost of one initial mailing and a community dinner.
- 87 CV programs have been completed to date over 20+ years.
- Pierre Bordeleau and Drexel Wheeler, as members of the Bridport Selectboard, will advocate for the CV program at a future Selectboard meeting. Renee and Sharron will attend as well.
- The Bridport Selectboard must make the formal request to VCRD for consideration. VCRD has not yet selected towns for 2024.

Old Business:

- Review of subdivision regulations: committee members discussed when the final plat should be filed. According to the regulations (260.2), the final plat (including mylar) must be submitted at least 15 days prior to a regular monthly meeting of the BPC.

Agenda for next BPC Meeting (for consideration):

- Meeting start time
- Land Use Application spreadsheet
- Bill of Sale

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm

Respectfully submitted:
Renée Brodeur, Secretary