

Granville Planning Commission  
July 19, 2021  
DRAFT Minutes

Meeting called to order 6:15

Roll call - Bill Cavanaugh; Diane Eramo; Rachel Grigorian;  
Stephanie Walker; Judy Wood

Public - Kevin Geiger/TRORC; Dan Sargent/Granville Fire Chief;  
Mike Eramo

Communications & Bills - None

Public Comments - None

New Business -

- Kevin Geiger presented much information regarding ordinances and their potential uses for a town without zoning bylaws such as Granville. He answered questions about how best to prevent land uses such as paramilitary training facilities, helipad/airports and other undesirable land uses.
- Dan Sargent outlined the needs to be accommodated in an upgraded Fire House, i.e., a bathroom/w shower, and a meeting/training room. He described the deteriorated conditions and lacks of the current Fire House and said it would probably be wisest and cost-efficient to replace the entire structure. He made it clear that he and the Fire Dept. need help with this project.  
As a bathroom (including a shower) is an essential need, water supply and septic issues need to be addressed. Mike Eramo suggested working with Efficiency Vermont in the planning stages. The \$20,000 currently in the capital budget

for the Fire Dept. could be directed toward funding initial consultations and planning. Rachel and Stephanie volunteered to begin acting as a quasi-steering committee for his project. Rachel will contact Efficiency Vermont.

- Community Garden update: Rachel observed that there is a lack of public participation and proposed FPF “friendly reminders” posts to encourage more community engagement. Rachel will see to getting 3 yds. of mulch delivered to the site and may do an FPF post requesting public help in spreading it. There was discussion of how to keep the well functioning.
- Telecommunications Ordinance - review of Draft  
Rachel questioned the length of the Background & Purpose section and suggested it could be shortened. Citing the mention of “public harm versus public good”, she said she didn’t want it to sound “too subjective” rather than “objective.” Diane said “It does have a negative bias overall.” Judy explained that all of what’s in the Draft is from many other previously adopted Towns’ Telecomm Ordinances. Rachel reiterated her concern about subjectivity vs. objectivity. Kevin Geiger stressed a need for more focus on actual standards. He cited the Draft’s references to forest blocks as needing adjustment and more specificity, particularly because such a large proportion of Granville is forest, and seeking to prohibit construction in forest blocks is unlikely to be effective. He said emphasis on standards for access roads and road building would be more effective for Granville. Kevin also said that before being presented to the public, the Planning Commission or the Selectboard should submit the Ordinance to the Town attorney for review. Diane reiterated her belief that the Draft has a “negative bias” and wants it revised to be “neutral”, as well as more concise. Bill thinks most of the Draft is “fluff” and wants it considerably shortened. Judy reiterated a request for written comments and

suggestions via email on the basis of which she could proceed to make specific, actual changes. Rachel proposed that members, subsequent to this discussion, email Judy their comments and suggestions. Judy will adjust the Draft accordingly and have a second Draft ready to present to the PC at the September meeting.

- **Multi-use Path System**  
Rachel is attempting to find out if some of the path system can be along Route 100 because she found that some of the landowners along the planned route do not want it on their property. Kevin opined that Vtrans would not approve such use in the state highway right-of-way.
- **Helipad Ordinance**  
Judy, who had volunteered to work on this, said she'd done a little research, but went no further because the Telecomm Ordinance is a priority, and because she thought it best to wait until after Kevin Geiger provided general ordinance info at this meeting. We agreed to table work on a Helipad Ordinance.
- **Mike Eramo brought up the topic of a noise ordinance vis-à-vis some neighbors shooting guns over extended periods, as well as a neighbor who detonates random major explosions involving oxyacetylene. Kevin thinks this practice may be in violation of explosives regulation and said that the Fire Chief has the authority to abate any explosive hazard. He also said he would inquire about state regulation. If backed by official regulation(s), the Granville Constable and/or Fire Chief might be involved in enforcement of same. Mike said that a lease is required for possession of an oxyacetylene tank. Finding out whether or not this neighbor does have such a lease could offer a way the neighbor could be stopped by removal of the tank. In the absence of applicable state**

regulation, a Town Noise Ordinance would have the potential to curb these practices by laying out standards regarding intensity and duration of a given noise.

Rachel made a motion to adjourn at 8:10; Judy seconded.  
All in favor.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Submitted July 21, 2021 by  
Judy Wood  
Sec'y. Granville Planning Commission