

Glover Planning Commission Meeting November 28, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. Ann Creaven, Randy Williams, Doug Safford, Nicole Gratton, Liz Nelson, Mariel Hess attended. The meeting was held as a Zoom conference, but Theresa Perron tried to come to an in person meeting at the Town Hall and had not received the notice that Randy was going to do it only on Zoom.

A motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting was made by Ann, Carmela seconded and the motion carried.

Randy will send Liz the copy edited for two spelling mistakes.

Randy introduced Nicole Gratton from NVDA who wanted to discuss the upcoming Town Plan renewal which needs to be completed by February 2026, so we need to start in 2025 to update our thinking about the plan. She will send some ideas in writing and comments about "habitat blocks" and "forest blocks" and recommends the use of "bio-finder" to make the info more robust for protecting and conserving the forest and habitat blocks. House bill S100 will be a feature in the upcoming plan. Glover has no zoning but any house can become a two house dwelling with an ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit). VT State is supporting housing efforts. We should provide links in our documents to resources in our government for supporting housing.

Glover has two Village Center designations: Glover and West Glover. We need to address how this designation can help in our updated plan.

Ann asked, "Does our enhanced energy plan have to be renewed?" Nicole will find out.

Food access needs to be inventoried: Senior Meals site and Meals on Wheels preparation in Town Hall, Currier's Market, the Busy Bee and Parker Pie. Also, the Equity Committee may have some input on food access. We need to document what we did and include goals

Carmela asked how do we formalize our desires for energy restrictions, for example on windmills? Can we have some control over where renewable energy resources can be located? Who has the final say? Randy: "Our guidelines are based on the State's guidelines. Can we have town restrictions?"

Ann: "Can the town be a "party" to restrictions." We have to ask Allie Webster at NVDA.

As an aside: NVDA is wants to hire another energy planner through the MERP program (Municipal Energy Resilience Program)

Nicole stated that the MPG can help with a 2026 plan. It is due at this time every year. Randy stated that we have had 2 MPGs and they have helped with the Heart of Glover project.

Nicole left, but not before Randy said that she has helped with the Preservation Trust and the restoration grant to the West Glover church. Mariel asked if she will send a summary to Randy and the Town Administrator. Randy will share it with the Planning Commission.

In the Reddi Grant process, Karen Gerraty is back on board with us after a tumultuous spell in Newport politics. We will be meeting with Karen soon. Randy had a request from the Town Clerk for a copy of the applications. Randy suggested to the Select Board that we get a coordinator for the grant requests and that Theresa Perron will be the coordinator and will work with Karen G and NVDA.

James and Nella are making progress getting quotes from contractors. Part of the plan includes developing the property adjacent to the green along the river. The Sweeneys have given permission for this ecologically responsible development, and The Fire Department has agreed verbally. We have a go-ahead from ANR to clear the riverside.

At the last Selectboard meeting Patrick Hurley and Molly Green proposed developing the green space between the town offices and the river to have more usable outdoor space. Mariel said this idea has come up in the Equity Committee, so let's not duplicate efforts. Each committee has minutes and Theresa Perron will be able to see the overlaps of the different committees working on town projects.

Carmela asked what about flood mitigation in the next two months? Theresa wanted to bring up this subject at this planning meeting, but was unable to connect to this meeting because of a mix up in communication.

Ann stated that a big piece of the project, The Town Office green area development, is the safety issue of the road crossing at the intersection of RT 16, Dexter Mountain Road and Bean Hill. Doug Morton and Stephanie ??? from the state were at that site to review the situation. The State requires a sidewalk to connect with the crosswalk. Her suggestion was to put in a short section of side walk on the corner of Dexter Mountain Road and Rt 16 to "anchor" the crosswalk, which would then connect to the sidewalk that goes on the west side of RT 16 along the highway, all the way to the Church. This small sidewalk would be within the state's right of way. Doug Morton is going to look into the funding for this. Ann will follow up with Doug Morton.

The Town Hall still needs a work force of a plumber and an electrician.

Randy will send out dates for any meetings and will coordinate with Megan Weyland at NEKO and Theresa Perron.

Carmela would like the Zoom option to continue for our meetings. We all agreed. Nicole also works with Preservation Trust. She is meeting with Theresa about the Town Hall. Randy listed the needs of the hall like better acoustical management, but the heating system and elevator are in good shape, despite the flood. Preservation Trust like the flood resilience efforts like plywood being installed on the bottom half of the wall which can be removed if it floods again and the higher placement of the propane tanks so they will not float away again.

Randy asks Ann about the wind tower issue. The plan for a larger amount of towers has been decreased to three towers with a limit of 100 KW per project. These towers are just under the state limit of 130'. Ann will talk again with NVDA. These towers are called "small wind" because they are not residential size. Ann is concerned about noise and the impact on wild animals, bats and birds primarily.

Carmela is interested in the community buying into energy production. Perhaps panels on the roof of the Pavillion on the green?

Doug Safford is going ahead with some reclamation work on his part of the riverbank with some approvals from state agencies. He said they will plant trees and shrubs to hold the soils. They are waiting for the State to clean up the opposite bank of the river.

The Phone Tree idea was revisited but nothing was proposed. Mentioned were various actions happening in other towns like "Brownington Together" and Albany Together" This is a forum managed

by NVDA. Also there are spontaneous town projects like "The University of Irasburg" All ideas to contemplate!

Mariel moved to adjourn. Carmela seconded. So voted at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Nelson, Secretary