

Lamoille County Planning Commission

Executive Committee Meeting

July 9, 2024

Members present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Leo Clark (Treasurer)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brian Leven (Vice Chair) <i>Video</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greg Paus	<input type="checkbox"/>	Riki French
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Caleb Magoon (Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Duncan Hastings <i>Video</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dick Goff (Secretary) <i>Video</i>		

Staff: Tasha Wallis, Seth Jensen, Georgeana Little

Chair Caleb Magoon called the meeting to order at 4:59 pm.

Adjustments to the Agenda & Opportunity for Public Comment

The item Considerations for Inclusive Town Planning may be moved to accommodate Liz Courtney. She will also address a name change for the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (JEDI). There was no public comment.

Approval of May 14, 2024 Minutes

Leo Clark motioned to approve the May 14, 2024 minutes. Duncan Hastings seconded. Leo pointed out a typo under the Executive Director's Report. H 687 was listed as H67. Motion carried after the correction.

Nominating Committee Report

Tasha Wallis reported that Leo Clark will be stepping down as Treasurer and Dick Goff will be relinquishing the Secretary's post. The Nominating Committee is recommending the following slate of officers for FY25: Chair, Caleb Magoon, Vice Chair, Brian Leven, Treasurer, Linda Martin, Secretary, Judy Bickford. The slate will be voted on at the July Board meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at that time.

H687

This is the new land use legislation. It is 171 pages long and regulates how regional plans and land use maps will be reviewed and approved by a new board. Seth Jensen provided a brief overview of the legislation focusing on the Tier system developed for land use regulations. Some areas will have less Act 250 oversight while others will have more. The implementation of this legislation is still ongoing so nothing definitive can be said at this time. Leo Clark

asked why the Governor vetoed this legislation. Seth suggested reading the Governor's explanation which focused on the expansion of state jurisdiction in land use rulings.

Considerations for Inclusive Town Planning

Liz Courtney, Chair of the JEDI Committee, reported to the committee that this version has minor changes from that presented to the Executive Committee previously. It is made clear that these are only recommendations and not mandates, some examples have been added, and there was some reorganization. Caleb suggested a cover letter might be added before presenting this document to the towns. Tasha said that the idea was to have the staff present this to the Planning Commissions as they begin updating their town plans.

Duncan Hastings motioned to forward the Considerations for Inclusive Town Planning to the full Board for consideration. Brian Leven seconded. Motion carried.

Liz also added that the JEDI committee would like to change their name to the Belonging and Inclusion Committee. Diversity and equity have become divisive words that could make some people ignore any suggestions made by a committee including those words. The new name will convey the main thrust of the committee.

Members of the Executive Committee were supportive of the name change and the full Board will vote on it at the July Board Meeting.

Changes to Open Meeting Law

New legislation makes it mandatory that bodies that make decisions must record their meetings and have the recordings posted for 30 days after approval of the minutes. This rule does not apply to advisory committees. The Board of Directors and Executive Committee will be covered by this law. The Board should codify which committees of the Lamoille County Planning Commission are covered by this law and which are not.

Ethics Bill

This new legislation applies to municipalities, not to the planning commissions.

Financial Procedures Update

Leo explained that this new update contains only a few housekeeping changes and minor updates. This update will be presented to the Board at the July Board meeting.

Executive Director's Report

- Susan Sinnott is no longer employed by the LCPC. She was not the right person for the position. Nicole will continue to work with us until a replacement can be found.
- We have contracted with Ron Rodjenski, former Town Administrator for Hyde Park, to help with planning work. He has already helped the planners with their workloads. The contract is for FY25 for \$40,000.

- There is \$900,000 available for work on hazard mitigation. We will apply for as much as we can to help our communities.
- We have interviewed 2 intern candidates and hope to have them on board soon. Both are recent University of Vermont graduates.
- The large EDA grant will be voted on at the July Board meeting.
- The Congressionally Directed Spending grant applied for through Senator Welch's office has been well received. The grant would cover river gauges along our waterways.

Cancel August Meeting

Leo Clark motioned to cancel the August Executive Committee meeting. Dick Goff seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned

Duncan Hastings motioned to adjourn. Dick Goff seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.