

Isle La Motte Town Planning Commission

Special Meeting

28 March, 2024

7:00 PM

Via Zoom

In Attendance: Commission Members Carmine Centrala, Neil Chaffee, Joel English, Laura Miraldi, Steven Reeve, Michael Simanskas. Advisor Emily Klofft of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission.

1. **Call to order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Carmine Centrala.

2. **Administrative Work**

- **Approve Minutes of 3/11 Meeting:** Laura Miraldi suggested that the minutes be edited to reflect that the ILM Elementary School ceased classes in 2019 and transferred the building to the town in 2023. The commission agreed and Michael Simanskas motioned to approve the minutes, as amended, seconded by Laura Miraldi, all in favor. Neil Chaffee will submit the amended minutes.

3. **Planning:**

- **Town-wide Input Session**

Emily provided a draft agenda for a town-wide, in-person meeting agenda. She is suggesting a 2-hour session with a ½ hour introduction and 3 or more breakout sessions centering on specific issues such as Status and Uses of the Old and New Town Hall Buildings, Recreational Facilities and Opportunities, and Town Infrastructure and Services. Laura suggested and it was generally agreed that the sessions should include references to community-building opportunities. Emily will integrate this into the break-out agendas and email an amended agenda to the Commission.

Prior Efforts: Michael raised the question of prior attempts to create a town plan. Carmine indicated that the effort took place more than 20 years ago and that the Selectboard at the time opted not to move forward with a plan. The Members agreed that we should be prepared to answer questions pertaining to this.

Plan Duration: The duration of the plan was discussed. Emily indicated that an 8-year plan is common for Vermont towns. This means that the plan would be revised in 8 years but that we should look beyond 8 years as we draft it.

Introduction: Emily indicated that she was willing to present an introduction that includes a rationale for town planning, town demographics, and a review of the town-wide survey results. She suggested that a Commission Member should address the reasons why Isle La Motte is considering a Town Plan. Carmine indicated that he would be comfortable in that role. Emily is working on a PowerPoint presentation for the introduction.

Breakout Sessions: Logistics were discussed and whether or not we should accommodate Zoom attendees since many seasonal residents will not be on the island in April. We will explore the option of setting aside one room for presenters to address Zoom attendees.

Timing: We discussed weekday vs. weekend sessions and it was generally agreed that we should have better attendance on the weekend. In order to provide more time for planning, it was agreed that Saturday, April 27 at 10:00 am is a good date and time to shoot for as long as it does not conflict with other events.

Advertising the Session: It was agreed that, as we did with the survey, we should utilize Facebook and Front Porch Forum to advertise the session. We also agreed that we should send announcement postcards to all residents. Carmine introduced the idea of announcing a reopening of the town-wide survey on the same notification and it was generally agreed that a scaled-back version of the survey without the open-ended questions would be a good way to obtain additional feedback from the town. Emily will create the shorter version of the survey.

Additional discussion: It was agreed that we should provide refreshments for a morning meeting (coffee, donuts, etc.). Michael and Laura agreed to approach ILMCO about possibly partnering with the Commission in this regard. Emily indicated that there is a small provision in our grant to provide food. We also discussed the need to have note takers in each session to collect and record feedback and suggestions. Emily indicated that NWRPC could provide one individual for that purpose.

- **Town Plan Draft:**
Emily provided an annotated copy of Neil's comments and questions regarding the draft plan and agreed to provide a revised draft for our next meeting on 4/2.

4. Next Steps:

- It was agreed to table discussion of the revised draft until our regular meeting on Tuesday 4/2 at which time we will also finalize plans for the town-wide input session.
- Our next Ordinary Meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 2 at 6:00. It will be both in-person and on Zoom.

- 5. Adjourn:** Neil Chaffee motioned to adjourn, seconded by Michael Simanskas, all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.