

Isle La Motte Town Planning Commission

Regular Meeting

7 May, 2024

6:00 PM

Location: ILM Town Offices and Via Zoom

In Attendance: Commission Members Carmine Centrala, Neil Chaffee, Laura Miraldi, Steven Reeve, Michael Simanskas. Advisor Emily Klofft and Luke Slomba of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC).

1. **Call to order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Carmine Centrala.
2. **Administrative Work**
 - **Approve Minutes of 4/2/24 Meeting:** Laura Miraldi motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Steven Reeve all in favor.
3. **Planning:**
 - **Review/discuss TPC Public Outreach Summary Document**
 - Emily Klofft walked through a document summarizing the input received from the session.
 - Carmine will provide the sign-in sheet to get an accurate count of attendees.
 - The Commission considered the session a success with the exception that we ran out of time to fully review the entire agenda. We will set aside time in the next outreach to cover Town Services and Recreational Opportunities.
 - It was agreed that the session input largely mirrored what we heard from the town-wide survey.
 - **Old Town Hall:** Outreach attendees largely agreed that the Old Town Hall should be retained by the town but many felt that town ownership should be contingent on renovation and maintenance costs. Carmine indicated that the town is in the process of obtaining a complete (structural & engineering) inspection of the old and current Town Hall buildings.
 - The Commission agreed that any Town Plan action items regarding the Old Town Hall should be put off until we get the results of the inspection.
 - Carmine will ask the town for an inspection timeline. He estimated that it could be as late as mid-July before we see a report.
 - We discussed the historic status of the building. It is believed that, although the building is not currently designated as historic, it lies within the Four-Corners Historic District. To have it designated as Historic, the Town would need guidance on what can and cannot be done to an historic building.
 - Laura Miraldi posed the question of how specific our Town Plan recommendations should be. Emily Klofft indicated that more general recommendations should appear in the opening statements while more specific action items should appear in the Implementation Plan.

- **New Town Hall:** Outreach attendees suggested many possible uses and opportunities for the building. The Commission felt that we should gather more information on these suggestions such as viability and cost to implement and share this information with attendees of the 2nd outreach session.
- **2nd Public Outreach Session:** In addition to gathering more input on Town Services and Recreational Opportunities, the Commission agreed that a second session should focus on prioritizing the many recommendations.
 - Steven Reeve will create a board with a list of the recommendations to facilitate a ranked priority vote.
 - The Commission agreed that, in the absence of conflicts, the 2nd Outreach will take place on **Wednesday, May 29, from 6:00 to 8:30 PM** at the Town Hall.
 - The first 30 minutes will be dedicated to a review of town services and recreational opportunities.
 - The remaining 2 hours will focus on further discussion of the ideas for the old and new Town Hall and identification and prioritization of consensus recommendations.
 - **Because of the nature of this participation and minimal Zoom participation in the 1st Outreach, the Commission decided that this Outreach will be in-person only.**
- **ARPA finalization discussion:** Carmine indicated that he will consult with the town as to what is required to finalize the ARPA recommendations which carry a December deadline. This may require additional public input. If so, the Commission agreed that ARPA expenditures should be an additional topic for our 2nd Outreach session.
 - Emily agreed to provide guidance on what ARPA funds can and cannot be spent on. She will refer our questions to an expert at NRPC.
 - There was discussion on how we may be able to coordinate ARPA with other programs such as Better Communities Grants and Municipal Planning Grants. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns may provide some guidance.

4. Next Steps:

- Our next Meeting will be a Special Meeting and will take place on Wednesday, May 22 at 6:00. It will be Zoom only. The agenda will focus on the 2nd public outreach.
- Our next Regular meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 4 from 6:00 to 7:00 PM at the Town Hall and via Zoom.

5. **Adjourn:** Michael Simanskas motioned to adjourn, seconded by Neil Chaffee, all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.