

Fair Haven Planning Commission
Town of Fair Haven - March 13, 2024 - Special Meeting

Commissioners Present: Robert Richards - Chair, Cindy Pritchard - vice-chair, Lorraine Brown

Commissioners Absent: Patrick Frazier, Jason Coupal

Others Present: Phil Adams - Zoning Administrator, Jennifer Jackson - minute-taker

Agenda

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Richards called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. **Business: Fair Haven Town Plan working session**

Logan Solomon, with Rutland Regional Planning Commission, sent in a revised Town Plan that he edited and compiled from the notes he was given at the March 6th meeting. This document was used for the special meeting of the Fair Haven Planning Commission.

The meeting started with a discussion of the **childcare facilities** in town and how they should be represented in the developing Town Plan document. It was decided that the document should read "*There are several small daycare facilities in Town*".

The **fire department** and **rescue squad** have not yet sent in their edits to the sections describing their departments.

Recreation Facilities needs an action item of funding a Recreation Director position.

A discussion was had about placing the goals and actions back into their "unclumped" sections in the Facilities and Utilities section.

Facilities and Utilities Goals:

- Change goal #2 to read; "2. *To support educational and vocational training opportunities sufficient to ensure the full realization of the abilities of Fair Haven's residents.*"
- Goals #1, 3, and 4 are fine as is.

Facilities and Utilities Actions:

- Remove action #9 reading " Seek public input on how to incentivize and attract visitors to Fair Haven's downtown.
- Action item #15 include "given the distance from"; *Ensure Fair Haven Rescue Squad exists, given the distance from the Rutland Regional Ambulance service.*
- Action item #21 change to; *Maintain all recreational facilities and the Town's Recreation Department Program. Begin a search for a full-time Recreation Director.*

Economic Development:

- Page 20 move the second paragraph to the goal section.
- Change Business and Industry section to read as follows;

"Commercial and Industrial

Fair Haven has a population of only about two thousand eight hundred, but we are the primary commercial center for about the same number of people, i.e. the residents of West

Haven, Benson, and Hampton, New York. We are also, if not a primary or at least a secondary commercial center for Castleton, Hubbardton, Orwell, Poultney, and Whitehall, New York.

Fair Haven has for a long time had a slate industry to employ some of our residents, but we need more than that. Few of the jobs could be classified as "careers", but it was a good place for mostly young, mostly men to get started; many, after establishing themselves as good and cooperative workers, later applied for good jobs, outside town, especially at the General Electric plant in Rutland.

Present day industries include slate quarries and slate manufacturing. We are well suited to having industry with our advantages of transportation and our desire for local jobs, and we need to continue to encourage industry, and business to locate in Fair Haven.

As in many towns, business interests have expanded into outlying areas. In Fair Haven's case, the greatest expansion happened North and West of the village center. Commercial businesses in the north of town include pharmacy, restaurants, grocery store, hardware store, banks, auto sales, truck stops, insurance agency, dog daycare, and fast food. Commercial businesses in the western side of town along the New York border include RV service and sales, storage facilities, and the Vermont Welcome Center. Other small home occupation businesses are scattered throughout town, while we still maintain an active business district in the center of town."

Economic Development Goals:

- Add a 5th goal to read; *"Have commercial businesses on the ground floor of all our large downtown buildings, with shops and offices on the upper floors. Apartments on the upper floors and in the back of commercial buildings on the first floor will help address downtown housing needs in the town"*

Economic Development Actions:

- Add action item concerning utilizing the Vermont Welcome Center in Fair Haven to support businesses in town. Should read as follows; *"Encourage town of Fair Haven and businesses to utilize the Vermont Welcome Center to promote the area businesses and events"*

Housing Section looks good.

Transportation Section

- Logan asked a question about bridges in town - there are 2 bridges which are both over 20 ft.

Natural, Scenic, Cultural, and Historic Resources

- Move History Section back to the front of the Document and make its own section; *History and Culture*

History and Culture Goals:

- The first goal in the Old *Natural, Scenic, Cultural, and Historic Resources* section will be used in both sections. The New History and Culture Section will have only the one goal.

History and Culture Actions:

- Old *Natural, Scenic, Cultural, and Historic Resources* Goals numbered 1 and 3-13 will be moved to the new History and Culture section.
- Add an action item reading *"Create a binder containing the full history of the town of Fair Haven that will be available for the people."*

Energy Section:

- Mr. Richards paragraph for Hydroelectric power was chosen to be included in the document.
- Mr. Richards will check with Mr. Logan about the Solar and Wind section.

3. Other Business;

- a. Public Comment - None**

4. Adjournment:

Mrs. Pritchard **motioned to adjourn at 8:53 pm.** The motion was seconded by Mrs. Brown. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**** Next Scheduled Regular Planning Commission Meeting is on March 20, 2024****

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Jackson, Minute-taker