

HYDE PARK PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
December 2, 2009

Members Present: Greg Paus (GP), Mark Isselhardt (MI), Dan Young (DY), Duff Robitille (DR), Vicki Emerson (VE), Kevin Fitzgerald (KF)

Absent: Paul Clancy (PC)

Guests: Ed Webster, Mike Paradis, Doreen Noyes, Roger Marcoux, Georgianna Robitille

GP called to order the meeting at 7:00 PM.

First Order of Business – Town Plan Update

GP explained that the Commission would accept information from various municipal departments for use in the Town Plan update.

Hyde Park Volunteer Fire Department Chief Ed Webster discussed his department's needs and challenges. Private development roads can become narrowed during the winter making emergency access difficult. The Town does not have the resources to own smaller trucks for these hard to reach areas. Remote developments should be encouraged/required to have onsite water supplies for fire suppression. He recommended that any development containing six or more homes should have these requirements. The Town is in the process of purchasing a new fire truck that should sustain the department for quite some time.

Julia Compagna explained that North Hyde Park/Eden Volunteer Fire Department Chief Eric Aither was unable to attend the meeting, but had expressed the same concern with private roads as Chief Webster.

Northern Emergency Medical Services Executive Director Mike Paradis explained that his department is operating with three ambulances. The number of calls has actually declined in the last year. He presently contracts with five towns. Federal health care reform may drastically change how they are funded. The squad's facility was completed in 2006 and should serve them for at least the next five years. There is room onsite should there be a need for an additional bay and vehicle. He currently operates with twenty-five employees, eight to ten of which who are full time. He has mutual aid agreements with all the surrounding towns. Average income levels in Lamoille County (which are 30% below the statewide average) are a limiting factor in his budget. He stated that they have seen a decline in volunteerism.

Lanpher Library Trustee Doreen Noyes shared with the Commission that the library is growing as demonstrated by an increase in patrons, circulation and program development. The library has become a cultural hub in the Village. The Trustees are continually fundraising to support operational costs. State library resources have been reduced due to budget cuts. Computer tech use is growing. The Trustees try to maintain updated computers. Their meeting room is widely used by the greater community. Repairs are needed for the original section of the library including windows, brickwork and structural issues. The Trustees hope that as demand grows for the library, they will be able to accommodate patrons by offering more hours and services.

Sheriff Roger Marcoux shared that the slowdown in the economy has seemed to stabilize personnel turnover. LCSD continues to provide road patrol services to three contract towns. He is in the process of adding a detective to his force. A federal grant will help fully staff his department and carry them through the next four years. Drug issues are significant in the county. He has ten staff in his dispatch department. His office facility is undergoing a major renovation/upgrade as agencies are required to convert to "narrow band" radio communications. This will result in more deployment of communication equipment. He will be looking to locate a tower in the Davis Hill area and will undergo a public process for doing so. LCSD parking availability continues to be an issue. Future consideration will need to be given to property acquisition.

Julia Compagna explained that the Recreation Committee had discussed the Commission's request for information at their November meeting. Deanna Judkins was planning to attend the meeting, but apparently couldn't make it. Julia Compagna shared the following summary provided by the Rec Committee:

- Continue to expand use and programs in Baseball, Softball, Volleyball and Soccer activities.
- Construct concession/storage/picnic facility.
- Extend/complete walking path.
- Promote/encourage recreation activities in Hyde Park.
- Recruit and expand Committee membership.

Second Order of Business – Previous Meeting Minutes

The commission reviewed the November 4, 2009 meeting minutes. DY moved and VE seconded a motion to approve the minutes as written. All were in favor. Greg Paus mentioned that LCPC Planner Andy Flagg would like to attend the Commission's January meeting to present changes to Title 24, Chapter 117.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia J. Compagna
Town Administrator