

**HYDE PARK  
TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 18, 2019**

*All minutes are draft until approved by the Planning Commission please check future minutes for approval of these minutes. Meetings may be videotaped; recordings are held by Green Mountain Access Television. GMATV info: PO Box 581, Hyde Park, 05655; [info@greenmountainaccess.tv](mailto:info@greenmountainaccess.tv) or 802-851-1592*

Members Present: Bob Malbon, Brian Jones, Zac Cota, Eric Williams, and Vicki Emerson  
Members Absent: None  
Staff: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator  
Guests: Jim Robert & Max English from the Wolcott Planning Commission; Lauren Oates from the VT Emergency Management; Rebecca Pfeiffer from the VT Flood Plain Management; Seth Jensen, Senior Planner, LCPC; GMAVT did not videotape this meeting.

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Bob called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

- 1) Welcome, agenda changes.
- 2) **Organizational Meeting**; Motion by Vicki to maintain Bob as Chair, Zac as Vice-Chair and Ron as Clerk & hold monthly meetings on second Mondays at 5:30 p.m. Seconded by Zac. Voting: 5 in favor, 0 against, motion passed.
- 3) **Courthouse Pocket Park Grant** – The VT Dept of Health has awarded \$10,000 for Construction. Village residents have asked for a pocket park along Main Street and the County has agreed to installation in front of the Sheriff's building. Zac asked about the project deadline and Ron stated the goal was to have construction completed by December 2019.
- 4) **Review of Minutes** – Motion by Vicki to approve the 10/15/2019, 11/19/2018,12/17/2018, and 02/18/2019 with one correction: add Zac as present on 02/18/2019. Seconded by Brian. So voted.
- 5) **KICK OFF MPG19 – FEMA CRS Study** with Stowe and Wolcott. Rebecca handed out the premium reduction chart which allows up to 45% reduction in flood insurance premiums, which noted that most Vt Towns would only get to 15%. Seth stated that the goal of the grant projects is to assist the three towns, Stowe, Wolcott and Hyde Park in determining the level of credit available to the towns for existing practices and new local actions that result in flood risk reduction. Rebecca stated that the program is not well known, and the Community Rating System is to recognize towns for exceeding the minimum flood regulations required by FEMA. Seven VT communities are participating in CRS currently. The higher the level of points earned result in discounts. Rebecca stated that five Hyde Park landowners are enrolled in flood insurance and other properties may be involved but aren't required to purchase flood insurance. Anyone can purchase flood insurance for structures outside flood hazard areas for a low annual premium of \$373/year. The Vermont Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF) brings the State's share from 7.5% to 12.5% or 17.5% reimbursement on top of the 75% funding from FEMA in major disasters. Good planning documents and policies will also raise the town's ranking when the State ranks future grant applications. Rebecca noted that CRS participation can be a substitute for adopting river corridor protection in a bylaw. Seth noted that having some standards to allow development in the flood plain could assist with investment. Lauren noted that the Grange may be covered by the general VLCT policy. ERAF percentages are impacted by policies/ordinances or participation in CRS but flood premium discounts are only possible by participation in CRS. Rebecca noted that public outreach is a part of CRS and MPG19 will help identify how towns can improve their CRS Classification. Undeveloped land owned by the town or state with conservation restrictions add points per acre to the CRS rating. For MPG19, LCPC will review existing conditions & bylaws and identify structures in the flood hazard areas. CRS programs are reviewed every 5 years by FEMA, and towns report compliance once every year. Vicki left at this point, 6:30 p.m.
- 6) **Other Business**
  - a. Better Connections Pop Up Event is being planned by Dubois-King.
  - b. The Commission would like to discuss the Town's EAB Plan with Tree Warden Whalen in May.
  - c. North Hyde Park Grange Project is moving forward with \$50,000 approved at town meeting.
- 7) **Adjourn** – Motion by Eric to adjourn, seconded by Zac, no objection, meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ron Rodjenski