

**HYDE PARK**  
**TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION**  
MEETING MINUTES  
**March 9, 2020**

*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: Eric Williams, Bob Malbon, Brian Jones and Vicki Emerson  
Members Absent: Zac Cota  
Staff: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator  
Guests: Alec Jones, LCPC Staff Planner; Lea Kilvadyova, LCPC Regional Planner; GMAVT did not videotape this meeting.

Bob opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

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1. **Welcome** and no public comment; One addition to the agenda for the VT Arts Council grant.
2. **Lea Kilvadyova, Alec Jones – Outreach to Community** – Lea introduced herself and the new regional planner Alec Jones. Lea explained that the regional planning office checks in with towns every four years to look at changes in municipal planning. Lea explained that a new town plan requirement which will need to be included in the Hyde Park renewal required by 2025 for forest block and wildlife habitat protection. New language will be required to be adopted by the Town in conformance with state requirements to achieve an “approved plan”. Approved plans result in the town being eligible for planning grants. The Agency of Natural Resources has provided a framework for forest protection and the towns can add more than that base level of protection required. The regional planning office works with towns to ensure compliance with the state guidance documents under Title 24, typically a checklist of items that must be adopted by the town to become an approved plan. Lea noted that a few elements of the town’s current energy plan need to be amended in order for the town to acquire a higher level of standing in state proceedings (via a certificate of compliance) but with no significant growth in wind tower applications recently, the priority for amending the energy chapter is less than in the past. Lea stated that some legislators are discussing adding public safety town plan components but nothing concrete is in the works yet to amend Title 24. Lea stated that if the Town was interested in amending the energy chapter, she would do that work with an email request and then the PC would work in making the amendments to the town plan. The Board agreed that an email should be sent asking for LCPC review of missing items in the energy chapter.
3. **Hazard Mitigation Plan** – Lea noted that the Hyde Park Local Hazard Mitigation Plan expires in later 2020 and this plan needs to be in place for continued FEMA funding eligibility. Lea handed out a list of highest risks to the community to be evaluated and to assign a probability level (High, medium, unlikely) with likely worst impacts, ex. inundation flooding, fluvial erosion, ice jams, wind storms, snow storms, etc. Lea will assist the town planning commission which focuses on preventing emergencies with some notes on how/who to respond to an emergency. Lea suggested that the FEMA structure needs to be followed but the Town can limit the amount of detail added to the Plan. Lea would work directly with the Village of Hyde Park on the update of their Plan components. Lea updated the Commission on a related project that Seth Jensen is managing – the MPG19 consortium grant with Wolcott & Stowe to help identify options for the town to lower flood insurance premium rates through participation in the Community Rating System. Alec reported that he is reviewing what the different CRS classifications are for a town and savings for property owners. Even with lowered flood insurance rates, it might not add more properties to the flood insurance program, but the town could benefit by CRS designation through increased ranking for competitive federal funds.
4. **Municipal Planning Grant Update** – Lea handed out the updated timeline for the planning grant. MPG20 will study opportunities for mitigating state highway traffic in designated village centers.
5. **Vermont Arts Council – Animating Infrastructure Application Due 03/20** – Ron reported that a \$5,000 grant is being prepared to fund the hiring of an artist to develop a design for public art on Main St, LVRT Trailhead and the new LVRT Trail Park on West Main Street.
6. **Adjourn** – Having no more discussion, the Commission adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ron Rodjenski