



GEORGIA VERMONT

Planning Commission Meeting Tuesday, March 26, 2024 Chris Letourneau Meeting Room and via Zoom Minutes

Zoom Details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6165843896?pwd=STduU2JzTmpiVmE1MXZSaWZWLzVadz09>

Meeting ID: 616 584 3896 | Passcode: 5243524

Dial by your Location: 1 929 205 6099 (New York)

1. CALL TO ORDER - 6:30 PM

BOARD PRESENT
Chair Suzanna Brown
Charles Cross
Heather Dunsmore
Jared Waite
Tony Heinlein

STAFF PRESENT
Doug Bergstrom, Zoning Administrator
Kollene Caspers, Zoning Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT
Michael Allen, ReGrowth (Zoom)
Ben Richards

2. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

3. DISCUSSION

A. Town Plan Organization and Layout

Michael Allen from ReGrowth introduced the timeline going forward:

- Draft Plan timeline, (April- early June)
- Draft Plan presentation (late June/July)
- Final Plan (Aug-Sept)
- Public Hearings/Adoption (Oct-Dec)

- Planning Commission agreed with the timeline as presented.

Introduction of 3-part Town Plan layout:

- Part 1: Introduction, much of is carried over from the last Town Plan. New section explaining the planning process.
- Part 2: Issues & Opportunities, information and input received from the public and reflecting on the main topics.
- Part 3: Vision, Goals & Policies, including priority recommendations, History, & Cultural Resources, Scenic & Natural Resources, Economic Development, Growth & Taxes, Housing, Transportation, Infrastructure, etc.
- Appendix: Copy of community survey report, public meeting notes and Grant resources.
- Chatham, NY Town Plan used as an example of an attractive and readable Town Plan.
- Local photos will be solicited for the new Town Plan, with photo credit given to any local photographers who wish to share their photos taken of the town.
- Recommendations, economic development, and all the hard data will be addressed first to add to the Town Plan, as this will take up the majority of the time. Layout ideas can be addressed later.
- The history of Georgia can be presented a little differently so as to make it more unique compared to other town plans. The Planning Commission will work on the History portion and collect local information to share with ReGrowth, together with input from the Historical Society.
- M. Allen will work on the hard data and collate the research for the bulk of the town plan. He will attend the April 9th Planning meeting and share additional progress information with the Board prior to the meeting.

B. Current Town Plan Analysis for Update, by Section

The Planning Commission examined the provided information and each Planning member will go through certain sections for updating, revising and editing.

Such sections include:

- Churches and town clubs and organizations.
- The Planning Commission will decide what the History section should include, after consulting with the Historical Society and gathering local documents. S. Brown will work on this.
- H. Dunsmore will work on collecting area church data and information. Will reach out to social media.
- J. Waite will work on collating school data, what should be added to the original town plan information shared? School choice explanation and any criteria for students to accept state monies for high school.
- C. Cross will work on updating the social groups in town, updating the current town plan information and including any new groups. Front Porch Forum and other social media will be helpful with this section.
- Demographic Overview, Property and Development Trends and Housing Trends were discussed for updating.
- Town Services (pg 70, old Town Plan) can be updated, including the changes to Town Garage, Fire department, library, Town staff, and the like.
- S. Brown will work on the Highway and Library.
- C. Cross will work on the Administration section.
- J. Waite will work on Recreation, will also need to update the parks and trails.
- Changes made towards updating wastewater, recycling and composting portions to the Town Plan.

- Historic Village designation discussion, as well as explanation of the Historic Town Center and Village Center areas, and why certain designations are important.
- Public Utilities section updated.
- Health Services update discussed.
- H. Dunsmore will work on the updates to the Childcare section of the Town Plan.
- Planning Commission members may send any updated information to D. Bergstrom to collate and send to M. Allen.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Planning Meeting Minutes March 12, 2024

Motion to approve minutes with minor changes.

Motion made by Waite, Seconded by Cross.

Voting Yea: Chair Brown, Cross, Dunsmore, Waite, Heinlein

5. PLAN NEXT MEETING AGENDA

A. Plan Next Meeting Agenda April 9, 2024

M. Allen from ReGrowth will continue with Town Plan Draft update.

Planning Commission will continue with Town Plan updates by section, the layout of the Town Plan and discussion.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

7. DELIBERATIONS

8. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m.

Motion made by Cross, Seconded by Waite.

Voting Yea: Chair Brown, Cross, Dunsmore, Waite, Heinlein

Posted to the Town website

Signed: Douglas Bergstrom, Zoning Administrator, Planning Coordinator

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