

**Elmore Planning Commission Meeting
November 7, 2023**

Attendance:

- EPC members: Glenn Schwartz, Kate Sprague, Bruce Olsson, Don Valentine, Michelle Greeson
 - Town Citizens: Dawn Kress, Kate Lalley and Alberto Della Torre (from LCPC)

Conflict of interest: None

Minutes approved from late month: all approve, corrections have been made.

Ongoing Business:

- **Issue:** The EPC has been notified that it has the duty of nominating a Zoning Administrator now that the current ZA position is at the end of the 2 year term
 - **Discussion:** The EPC will advertise the position on the Vermont Planners Association List Server as well as other forums such as Front Porch Forum and on the website. The EPC has one more meeting before the end of the year when the ZA term ends and hopes to have a potential candidate to nominate before the Select Board. At this time it seems that the current ZA would be interested in another term.
 - **Action Items:** We will post the position in the community outlets to see if there is any interest in the position.
- **Issue:** Revisiting the Welcome Packet that Kate started earlier this year and with the help of Kate Lalley, review and determine addition of “health equity” language.
 - **Discussion:** The packet is to help guide newcomers on zoning bylaws and help them comply. We would also like to add in some Health Equity language into the packet. How to incorporate new housing and managing growth into our community while also keeping environmental preservation, community impact, and town goals in mind.
 - LCPC recommendations: Table of contents, incorporate HE language into the individual sections, use the HE planning toolkit online, incorporate “Public Health” into the town plan to increase the strength of the town plan.
 - How to make the new town garage property (and future plans) handicap accessible. If there is even a small but meaningful area that could be ADA accessible that would be a big step. Ideas include: Make the parking area as welcoming as possible. Accessible to all people. A kiosk, orientation to the site, and meaningful moments along the way for those who are mobility challenged.
 - There is quite a bit of funding if we can prove that we made a conscious attempt to make the plans as inclusive to all as possible, so it would behoove us to include as much HE language as possible.
 - **Action items:** Kate and Alberto will come back to meet with Glenn to walk the town garage property on Tuesday the 14th of November at 1:30pm
 - We would like to make a time for people of the community to have the option to view the property before the survey goes out. (Could be something informal... Snow man building contest with the grand opening of the town garage)

- The EPC will need to recommend/ask permission of the Select Board that we would like to have their involvement in the Survey and planning of the town garage property planning.
- Brainstorming how to get the most out of the survey.

- **Issue:** Town garage property
 - **Discussion:** Brainstorming questions for community survey. The EPC agrees that any hiking trails will not interfere with adjoining private properties.
 - **Action Items:** Distribute a survey (allow a “write in” area for people’s ideas).
 - Clarify that we have no funding to add at this time, so it would be a long-term project but we are be looking at grants and other funding.
 - See if anyone from the town would like to pick a day to go walk the property and try to inspire ideas.

- **Issue:** HOME Act presentation
 - **Discussion:** With the new Vermont law H47, how does Elmore come up to standard with the new laws. This law is to start to address the housing shortage in Vermont and how to increase housing in areas where housing already exists.
 - **Action Items:** Kate L. and Alberto will do an audit of the town bylaws to address areas that they recommend change for the H47 act (and the Health Equity language) incorporation.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:24pm

Next meeting: December 5th 2023 at 5:30