Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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Panton Planning Commission

Meeting minutes
January 8, 2026

DRB/PC members present: Dennis Mueller; Logan Roth-Longe; Jamie Dayton, Chair; Gretchen Bailey; Abby Matson
Administrators present: Kyle Rowe, Town Clerk/Treasurer; Donna Oliver, Assistant Town Clerk, minute-taker
Others present: Judy Stokes Weber, Kevin Sullivan, John Viskup, Sharon Ashcraft, Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC); Danelle Birong, ACRPC
Via Zoom: Martha DeGraaf

1. Call to Order. Jamie called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes. Jamie asked for any edits to the minutes of the December 11, 2025 meeting. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Logan seconded. ALL IN FAVOR.
3. Town plan update kick-off. Members of ACRPC and DRB/PC introduced themselves. Katie explained the purpose of the municipal planning grant. These grants are used to help towns update their town plan, which is the guiding documents for the town and must be updated every 8 years. Each town needs to look at their goals and policies and update the plan as necessary. Grant payments can be requested in thirds. Updates to the enhanced energy plan (EEP), come from another pot of money.
   Katie suggested the DRB/PC may want to meet more often than we currently do to keep the process moving forward.
   Dr. John Viskup, former Selectboard Chair, said he was concerned about the place of the commission in this process as he believed they made changes to our last plan that allowed a large solar company to target the town for a solar development. He does not want such a development to be shoved down our throats. Katie said she agreed with most of what he said, but Panton has an EEP that can serve as our barrier for such development. said. Panton has enhanced energy plan. In addition, Jolyon Larson, energy planner from ARCPC, will be attending Panton's next DRB/PC meeting to discuss the situation with Viridis. Danelle said our EEP will allow us to put guardrails in place.

Another town resident, Sharon Ashcraft, also said that large companies are putting solar fields in NY towns that have energy plans in place.
Jamie asked that the discussion return to the topic of the meeting.
Katie raised a topic from the grant we wrote. It was suggested we distribute another survey, similar to one we distributed in 2016. This would allow us to present focused questions to residents. We could send out a postcard with a QR code, email and distribute hard copy surveys so we get a good number of responses. The timeline for identifying questions was discussed. The PC also discussed whether to name a working group that included community members to do much of the legwork for this project. Katie urged everyone to read the plan and develop questions so we can have this ready to go by town meeting.
Kyle agreed to distribute copies of the old survey. Logan asked about statistics for this kind of survey. Katie said normally response rates are poor, but Panton usually has a good response. But this takes extra effort on the part of the town and administration. Danelle also said she would help the town in this process.
Dr. Viskup raised the issue of energy again, but Jamie urged we focus the discussion tonight on the town plan.
Next steps: It was agreed we should involve the public, asking for volunteers. We should also ensure a good cross section of participants.
Ms. Ashcraft urged the administration to watch how upcoming meetings are warned; they should be widely advertised.
Kyle identified Feb. 12 as the date for the next meeting but suggested we have another special meeting before the end of January in order to meet the deadline for printing the town report. That date was identified as Jan. 22. This will be a working meeting at which the survey questions could be put together. Ms. Ashcraft also suggested asking for questions, with some background, on FPF.

4. Public Comment. There were no public comments offered.
5. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn was made by Gretchen at 7:10 p.m., seconded by Logan. ALL IN FAVOR.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Oliver
Asst. Town Clerk