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Panton DRB/Planning Commission minutes

April 9, 2026

Present: DRB/PC members: Jamie Dayton, chair; Gretchen Bailey, vice chair; Dennis Mueller; Logan Roth-Longe; Abby Matson; Town Clerk/Treasurer Kyle Rowe; Assistant Town Clerk and notetaker Donna Oliver; Danelle Birong, Community Planner, Addison County Regional Planning Commission; Kathy and Charles Kennett; Sharon Ashcraft; John Viskup
Zoom: David Martini, Zoning Administrator (David participated only through the DRB portion of the meeting.)

Development Review Board

1. Jamie called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. Kathy Kennett noted that public comments were not included in March 12 meeting minutes, and Sharon Ashcraft said she noticed the same. As a result, action on the minutes for March 12 meeting was tabled.
3. Jamie asked David Martini for his monthly report. David had nothing to report but suggested that Jamie report on the recent decision by the Environmental Court. Jamie reported that the Environmental Court had ruled in favor of the Town's request for dismissal in the case of MSFE LLC. Jamie will update the board when more information becomes available.
4. Other business – old or new: Kyle reported that there are two applications coming – one for a variance and one subdivision – for the next meeting.
5. Jamie asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Abby made a motion to adjourn; Gretchen seconded. All in favor. Adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Planning Commission

1. Jamie called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Minutes for the March meeting had been tabled.
2. There was no public comment.
3. Jamie asked Logan for an update on the Energy Working Group. Logan report that a few folks are interested in participating in planning. Jamie offered further support if Logan needs it.
4. Danelle reviewed the power point presentation on the survey results for Saturday's meeting – Pizza for Planning in Panton!

a. Jamie said that we had a very small sample size. Only 86 people responded giving us a 12% response rate, and a 10% margin of error.
b. Danelle reported that she had some problems with the presentation and was not able to collect comments. The survey is only one tool we will use in this process. She reviewed the agenda and timing for the meeting, which will be recorded and minutes will be taken.
c. Danelle said that following a broad discussion of the survey results and visioning for the town, three groups will be created to discuss individual issues. The PC decided the three groups will focus on energy, housing, and natural resources and recreation. The moderator and scribe for each group were identified. Logan will scribe for energy while Jolyon Larson will moderate, Danelle will moderate the housing discussion and Dennis will scribe, and Kyle is moderating the natural resources/recreation discussion with Gretchen scribing. Jamie will be responsible for keeping everyone on time.
d. Sharon raised the issue of the artwork used on the last plan. Danelle thinks this plan should have a different look. Sharon said the art was created by a woman who used to live here but doesn't any longer. She suggested getting in touch with her about other pieces she might want to donate. Kyle said that we have a group that meets at the Town Hall monthly, the Panton Art Group, which is made up of local artists. We can contact them about using some of their art.
e. There was discussion on the word mapping on the last slides. One slide compiles the words that were most used in the 'what you like most about living in Panton' comments. The other slide compiled the words most used in the 'what you like least about living in Panton' comments. Dennis pointed out that we need to be careful that the words do not identify any groups or anyone specifically. Danelle said she did not create the word maps but will make sure this is changed, even if she has to redact the words. She will see if they can use a thematic grouping of words.
f. Several slides will be updated and changed based on discussion at the meeting.
g. Danelle will arrange for the pizza and beverages. She will also have easels, post-its, maps, and markers for use in the visioning process.
h. John Viskup made a comment that he was concerned about the amount of money the State has provided to be used for this process. These plans that towns create may never be realized.

5. Jamie reminded the PC of upcoming meetings.
    a. Planning Commission training at the ACRPC offices, 14 Seminary St. on May 7th.
    b. Panton Municipal Plan Consultation: on May 14th at 6:00 pm. This meeting is open to the public. These meetings are required by statute to discuss the plan and any updates. Danelle will ensure the meeting is warned in the Addison Independent.
6. Future Land Use Map update. There was a public hear last night when lots of questions were raised about category definitions. More clarification is needed. In addition, Act 181 is raising many questions. Another piece of legislation (S 325) is working its way through the senate which may slow the timeline.
7. There was no other business to discuss, so Jamie called for a motion to adjourn. Dennis made the motion; Logan seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Oliver
Assistant Town Clerk