

**FERRISBURGH TOWN CENTER COMMITTEE
MINUTES, NOVEMBER 21, 2022
DRAFT**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

Members present: Paul Hoffman, Richard Kerschner, Bonnie Barnes, Keith Wagner.

Members absent: Guy Miller, Christine Gingras.

Other participants: Clark Hinsdale, Richard Beck.

Draft minutes of September 14, 2022, were not approved, in the absence of a quorum of those having attended the meeting.

Ferrisburgh Center United Methodist Church building update. The Selectboard has agreed to accept the building as a gift, and a closing will be scheduled. There will be a gathering to deconsecrate the church on January 23. The town Building Committee has toured the church and begun an examination of potential issues with the building. They include mold in the basement and evidence of water damage but no roof leaks. The results of this unofficial inspection: the building is in fairly good shape. Next steps include obtaining a more detailed inspection, and providing a report of the findings in time for town meeting in March.

Clark Hinsdale reports that according to a contact at “Let’s Grow Kids” there is grant money available for daycare facilities. The Selectboard has identified a need for daycare services and services for the elderly. The Committee discussed generally the need for coordination of necessary inspections, town approvals and grant applications, along with the potential for securing a licensed daycare provider, and acknowledged the benefits of adaptive reuse projects.

Other updates.

Bonnie Barnes reports that the Town has received a planning grant of \$25,000 to study recommendations for safety upgrades to the Route 7 intersection with Little Chicago and Middlebrook Roads. The Transportation Committee of the Addison Regional Planning Commission has issued a Request for Proposals. The completion date for the grant is Sept. 30, 2023.

Clark Hinsdale reports that the proposal put forth by Connie Houston to create a dog park in an area behind the town offices encountered opposition from local landowners, and the supporters of this project are looking into other locations.

Rick Kerschner reports that he, Bonnie Barnes and Zoning Administrator Steven True met with representatives of Birdseye Construction, the new owners of three contiguous parcels southwest of the intersection of Route 7 and Little Chicago Road. They confirm that they have no immediate development plans for the vacant buildings.

The Committee discussed generally potential uses for the undeveloped land in town ownership in the Town Center zoning district, including the town offices parcel, the Sisters’ parcel to its south, the Methodist Church parcel to its north that is likely to come into town ownership soon, and the Fire Department parcel further north.

The Committee should prepare a short report to include in the town report.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Keith Wagner and Bonnie Barnes

Next meeting: December 19, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.