

**Planning Commission Board
(Hybrid) Town Hall and Zoom
July 22nd, 2025**

Members Present: Bryce Bacheldar, Dan Larivee, Rolland Rainville, Cyrus Grennon, Dianna Benoit-Kittell (arrived late)

Guests: Luke Slomba- NRPC, Jordan Bushey- Asst. Clerk, Dave Bennion, Justin Rainville, Mike Grant, Corinna Stanley, Mandi Gates, Jennifer Raynak

Call to order- Bryce called the meeting to order at 7:11

- **Approval of minutes from June –** Dan/Rolland made a motion to approve the June 17th minutes. All members voted in favor; motion passed 4-0.

New Business:

- **Town Plan review/adoption by Planning Commission-** Bryce explained what the Town Plan is all about. This includes goals and plans for the Town, (which are not legally binding.) This plan hasn't changed much since the last Town plan, (they are adopted every 8 years.) Bryce thanked Luke Slomba from NRPC for attending all the meetings, and putting so much work into drafting the plan.
- Corinna S- She noticed that there were historical places listed in the plan, but her house/farm was not included in that list. This is because she isn't on the State historical registry. Being on the state registry can help historic properties get grants/funding if you are registered.
- Jen R- She reviewed the Town Plan draft that showed the changes made from the last plan. Was there anything specific that the PC decided to keep in the plan?
 - Renewable energy was a big topic. PC wanted to include the use of burning wood as a renewable energy. Also expanded the line/boundary of the Village.
- Jen R- The population is growing in Franklin. There may be a need for more water and sewer if more houses or businesses are getting built in the Village. Can these needs be included in this Plan, or can it be incorporated into the next plan in 8 years?
 - The Plan has an implementation section that list short term actions that will take place in the "near future". There are only so many lots/space available in the village for more housing, so this may not be relevant for the new plan.
- Luke S-The Regional Committee reviewed the draft, and made these comments- the plan is well organized with a lot of information. There are 2 new state requirements for plans; must include act 181 (Community Resilience and Biodiversity Protection Through Land Use Act) and a housing target and State designations. With the State required changes mentioned, the plan looks good to adopt.
- Jen R- Is the PC happy with the plan?

- Board- Yes. Especially adding that the Town supports Franklin Elementary School staying as FCS, if any State merges happen, and encouraging people to open registered childcare places. Also added the vision of town from the community voices meeting. Conservation boundaries were updated so they don't cut through properties, but follows a property line instead.
- Although the Town plan is not legally binding, the plan will help guide the boards with decisions. It can also give the Town a "seat at the table" when decisions are being made at a State level.

Dan/Cyrus made a motion to adopt the Town Plan, pending the amended changes from Luke. All members voted in favor; motion passed 5-0.

Old business- none

Public Comments: none

Mail: Highgate sent a Bylaw Amendment hearing notice taking place on August 19. No action is needed from Franklin; this was just a notice.

Any concerns of members or community: none

Dan/Cyrus made a motion to adjourn at 7:50. Next regular meeting will be August 19th at the Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,
Jordan Bushey, Asst. Town Clerk
July 24th, 2025