

**Minutes of the Parish Town and Village Planning Board  
and Conservation Advisory Council  
Parish Village Gym  
September 28, 2020 at 6:30 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Paul Gage, Chairman.

**Roll Call: Paul Gage, Chairman  
Diane Spaziani  
Bill Scriber**

**Ben McDonald  
Kevin Dwyer  
Virginia Brown, Clerk**

Paul Gage asked if everyone received the minutes and if they had a chance to read them over. He asked if there were any additions or deletions to be made. Paul G. asked if none for a motion to accept the minutes. Diane S. made the motion, Ben M. seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**Communications:** Paul G. read a notice from James Craig, an engineer who is working with the County Highway Dept., they are replacing the bridge on North Railroad St. Paul G. asked if everyone got their Tug Hill times regarding the training programs, there are four webinars so we can get our training. They are all in the evening.

Paul Baxter gave his report. He mentioned the training schedules for the fall. He stated that there are in person as well as zoom components for the training. They are looking for pre registration for these training sessions. Most of these are not close to Parish. Four training hours are required for each Planning Board member. If more than four hours are accumulated in a year, they will be carried over to the next year. Ben M. asked what happens if he does not get his four hours in, what happens then? Paul B. said there is a way that you get a waiver from the town board. You let them know you are not going to make it and that you will do better next year. They may give ok. They just want to make sure that you are up to date. Diane S. asked about the training for harassment in July. She has not received her certificate as of yet. I let her know that I received my certificate in the mail, as did Paul G. Paul G. asked if Paul B. had anything else or if anyone had any questions for Paul B. Paul B. said that the town board has set a public hearing for the proposed zoning amendments for the town and then upon approval (in audible). Then upon further reflection on it from Matt J. they decided to push back that date a little bit because (inaudible) October 15th is coming up real soon.

Several weeks ago the town board sat down with Matt J. over zoom to run through the proposed amendments. They went through it point by point and made some additional amendments. Matt took it back to fine tune. The public hearing was already scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup> but it was suggested they take a little more time; it would give them, the town board, time to meet with Matt once again to review the changes that they came up with to make sure they were satisfactory. It seemed to be a waste of time and energy to have a public hearing before the changes were reviewed again.

Jim Bernys passed his report around for all members to look at. If any questions he is here to answer. He has had a busy month. Diane S. asked what the final decision on how he is going to handle complaint form. Jim said the complaint form issue is he will take everything, verbal, written, phone calls, and he will check it out. If he gets overwhelmed with zoning issues, then it's like a priority and he tells everyone that. If there is a place that has been there for ten years and it is still an issue it may be there in 10 years and 6 months it is not like a pressing issue. He tries to prioritize everything regardless (inaudible) if it has been there for years and years it may be there, it's on my list, and lately he has been really busy so there are always things happening. This pertains to both zoning and code issues. Kevin D. asked the village side about the pole barn at 914 North Railroad St, are they connecting to the sewer or has anyone been contacted regarding that? Jim said last he spoke with him he was still in talks with the Camden group. It is out of his hands. They still don't know where the line is.

Paul G. said we have no old business hanging so we will move right on to new business. We can start on the Comprehensive Plan. Does anybody have what Matt sent, the 2016 version? He feels the best thing to do is to go through page by page and see if anything has changed. Is that proper?

On page one, is the comprehensive plan committee, purpose of the plan and community survey and periodic review of the update of the plan. That should stay in.

Anything on page two? Organization of community profile, goals and strategies or development plans.

On page three, community profile the general background, Paul did not think that has changed so let's leave that. Diane S. said the picture is old, can we get new pictures? Can we have one from now? We have improved since then. There used to be a lot of stuff here. We used to have a tannery, a pharmacy, grocery store, 2 or 3 bars. Bill S. said his family has been here a long time. There was also a clothing store, and a traffic light.

Early settlement; that would have come from the historian, so that is probably pretty accurate.

Ben M. asked about the population being under 10,000. Is that correct? Paul G. said that by latest census figures, it is around 2556-58. That is the whole town. Paul B. breaks it down in his figures between the village and town.

The economy and transportation; which is basically part of the history. We need to see how many farms there are actually here now? Bill S. counts maybe 3. To be considered a working farm they need to make at least \$10,000 a year.

Institutions: The Methodist church was established in 1869, and today's church dates from 1901. Kevin D. says because the original church burned down, that is when the fire company came to be. The old plan says there are 3 schools; Parish elementary, the APW Middle and High School(s). This should change as we only have 2 schools now, both on County Route 22. BioSpherix has occupied the former Parish Elementary. That is accurate, so that will stay. Present and future settlements, there are no changes to that.

Bill S. wants to make a comment on page 6; there is more to the town than just the buildings and the village. The map should include the one from 1860, which includes the town, as well as show farms etc...

Population: that will get updated by Matt. Paul G. said that the census is what updates that. Ben M. mentioned that it was the first time it showed a decrease.

Page 8 is more of the demographics, age, households. We did have the survey for the water so that will be available. There will be some changes, but Matt J. will pick that up. The educational attainment, how much has that changed? The poverty level, percentage of population below the poverty level etc.... That is all stuff that Matt J. will be able to pick up for us.

Diane S. mentioned about the community survey, the water income survey. Paul G. said that if we had had an up to date comprehensive plan when they did the water survey, they could have gone right by our comprehensive plan, but we did not. That is the idea of the plan. Part of what the water was looking for was the poverty of the town. It says the percentage of population below the poverty level, which would show that in 2000 the village was at 12.7 and then in 2010 it was 10.3. The town council had done an income survey at the time. We will always be a little ahead or behind.

Bill S. said we should already be working on it again. We did one in 2016 and it should have been adopted. We should do it again in 2021. The town may push back and say wait but we need to say no because it needs to be done. The mayor has been requesting this, and Paul G. said he told her we as soon as we got the zoning done then we would work on this. Bill and Paul said they had presented the 2016 version to the former Supervisor and were not sure if he presented it to her. We can work on it more accurately when the new census info comes out.

Page 10, employment, "very little". The school districts should be updated. Property taxes, there were some changes there. This includes county, town and school taxes. The enrollment in the schools has gone down. Bill S. stated that the school districts should be decided by what town you live in not by whatever was decided years ago.

Property taxes on page 12. Ben M. said that he saw that the Star Program has changed, if you're two years behind in taxes, you're not eligible for Star anymore.

Page 15, the goals and strategies for the conservation advisory council.

Talk turned to the Farm on 69, Jennifer R. thought they were coming back but they aren't. They have sold the house. The land has deteriorated, the barn needs work. It is a fish farm so it is hard to do anything else on the land. We will need to revisit this issue.

Did Community Events stay the same, Paul G. asked. Everything has been postponed for the year due to Covid.

Village Revitalization?

Kevin says there are three vacant lots in the Village. Bill says he doesn't know if we want to

discourage people from building at this time. Ben mentioned that we have a lot of abandoned buildings that will be torn down in the future. The building next to the church may be torn down soon. That is a beautiful lot Ben Said. It could be a parking lot and have a business in the old church.

Diane mentioned how things in Parish keep getting worse and worse and not better. What she sees is that when water comes to town then many of these problems will turn around and you may see businesses looking to come to town. Ben mentioned the income again as you still have a low income population. If you have apartments in some of these buildings, say the old church, you have supply and demand. Paul G. stated that when he joined the Planning Board in 1995, they were talking about water, here we are all these years later and we are still talking about it. Diane said that we have received letters from a hotel, Aldi, and a senior citizen facility or nursing home or something like that. They all wanted to come here but the one thing we did not have, water. The group consensus was that Parish sometimes seems to fight itself, no vision.

Paul G. asked if they wanted to make any changes to the strategies or delete anything on page 16 with the revitalization and enhance the Village. Bill objected to number 3, restricting overall (inaudible). Obviously without water, (inaudible) you can not build within code, the aquifer is nearby. Are the wells in the village any good Bill asked? Some are, some aren't.

The well water quality in Parish is not the best. Motels, restaurants and such businesses have to have quality water. They can not do a proper business otherwise. APW has many wells to supply both buildings. Diane S. asked if it is in line of what we are saying, should the strategy be something about water? Yes, it can be. Bill S. wants to take out the restricting of housing.

Page 17, transportation, stayed the same.

Page 19, regarding cul de sacs, it says provided enhanced multiple forms of transportation, use zoning and site plan review process to ensure proper curb cuts and new development, especially along state route 69. Again, we fell behind without water. New York State said until you get water and decide what you are going to do, they said they would hold off on doing anything with St. Rt. 69. We should have housing tracts and apartment complexes and townhouses etc. here in Parish.

Paul G. asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kevin D. made the motion and Bill S, seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

Respectively Submitted,

Virginia Brown