

## **August 7, 2018 Planning Board**

**Present were:** Regular Members Tom McCue, Lori Langlois, Greg Estrella, Richard Cassidy, Helene Rayborn, Naomi Levesque, Christina Lefebvre, Alternate Member Lane Strahan, Ex-Officio Member Lucie Remillard, and Ex-Officio Member Bryan Chevarie.

Alternate Member Aline Boucher was excused.

**Others Present:** Pamela Laflamme, Community Development Director; Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Sun.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **Approval of July Minutes**

Ms. Rayborn made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2018 meeting as written. Mr. Cassidy seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion carried.

### **Other**

#### **Lot Merger – Map 132-Lots 22 & 23**

The City of Berlin sold Map 132-Lot 23, a vacant parcel, to an abutter located at Map 132-22 (698 Trudel Street). The vacant lot will be merged into the existing lot which the single-family home sits upon. A motion to approve the merging of these lots was made by Ms. Remillard. Ms. Langlois seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion carried.

### **Project Updates**

Riverwalk – Ms. Laflamme explained that HEB Engineers will be present at the September Planning Board meeting and will give an update to the group regarding the project. The online survey generated almost 400 responses, including lots of helpful feedback from the community.

Hutchins Street – The intersection of Bridge Street and Hutchins Street was paved. The type of asphalt they used is stronger than the typical blend and should hold up well with the heavy truck traffic.

Route 110 – Work has begun to replace some of the street signs with brown historical signs that have the City seal on them. This, along with the new “The Avenues” monument, are pieces of the historic mitigation that the City has undertaken as part of the Route 110 redevelopment. Additional items will be added in coming months that will accentuate the historical significance of the area.

Snowmelt study– The engineers recently toured Burgess Biomass and the site of the proposed project. The results of the study will be instrumental in determining the feasibility of the project.

Hutchins Street sidewalk – The City is working on an application to submit to the Department of Transportation in an effort to extend the sidewalk from the Hutchins Street area where new

sidewalks were recently installed down to Columbia Avenue. There is currently no sidewalk in this area on either side of the road.

Food cooperative – The project just received another grant, nearly \$50,000 for project management, web design, and similar items.

Welcome sign – The granite is not ready yet. Work is expected to start as soon as possible.

Street lights – The conversion to LED lighting is underway. Work is expected to be complete within the next two to three weeks.

UNH Cooperative extension staff – The City's Master Plan will be needing to be updated soon. There is a free program available where people visit a city without identifying their mission and afterwards share their experiences with municipal leadership. This could help to identify things that the City is doing well and things that may need improvement.

### **Public Comments**

Barbara Tetreault, Reporter for the Berlin Sun, asked when the North Country Growers purchase and sale option for the parcel expires. Ms. Laflamme explained that the most recent agreement expired at the end of July, however, an extension is being negotiated and the project is still anticipated to happen.

Ms. Tetreault also inquired about the disappearance of many of the Canadian Geese from upper Main Street. Ms. Laflamme directed her question to the City Manager.

### **Member Comments**

Ms. Levesque asked if there is an estimated completion time for the Hillside bridge project upgrade. Ms. Laflamme said it is anticipated to be completed by mid-September.

Ms. Lefebvre asked how the City views Airbnb rentals. Ms. Laflamme stated that the City is monitoring the situation. A discussion of potential issues and benefits of short-term rentals ensued.

### **Planner Comments**

There were no planner comments.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Remillard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Cassidy. All in favor, the motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:30 pm.

The next Planning Board meeting will be on Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bryan Chevarie