

## **June 4 2019 Planning Board**

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

Regular Member Helene Rayborn and Alternate Members Aline Boucher and Suzanne Wasileski were excused.

**Others Present:** Pamela Laflamme, Community Development Director; Nicole McKenzie, United States Census Bureau

Mr. McCue appointed Ms. Strahan as regular member for the evening.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **Approval of May Minutes**

Ms. Langlois made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2019 meeting as written. Ms. Strahan seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion carried.

### **Census 2020 Complete Count Presentation – Nicole McKenzie, US Census Bureau**

Ms. Laflamme introduced Ms. McKenzie and explained that the City of Berlin is proactively preparing for the 2020 United States Census. Berlin Housing Authority, Catholic Charities, Coos County Family Health, Brookside Apartments, White Mountain Community College, AHEAD Housing, and other entities are working toward the goal of including every eligible person in the City for the upcoming census.

Ms. McKenzie distributed a packet of information to the group. She noted that – in New Hampshire alone – more than \$3.7 billion of federal funds were allocated to the state based on data derived from the 2010 United States Census.

Ms. McKenzie explained that residents of a community have insights and relationships that can help motivate a higher participation level in the 2020 census than if all of the effort comes strictly from the federal level. These partnership programs have been established in an attempt to maximize the inclusivity of the community when the count is performed. There are three partnership programs in New Hampshire, one of which is in Berlin.

Accessibility and technology have improved over recent years and people will be able to go online or call a designated phone number to participate in the census. This is not only convenient, but also financially preferred over the alternative of paying enumerators to visit properties in an attempt to count those who have not sent in their form.

The group brainstormed locations and groups of people that could benefit from this partnership effort. Mr. Cassidy recommended having information available to those who attend BINGO game nights. Ms. Remillard suggested reaching out to parents that have children in the Head Start program. Discussion ensued regarding other locations that should be targeted with this extra effort. Mr. McCue underscored why it is so important that we count as many residents as possible, as the financial implications are significant.

### **Project Updates**

Ms. Laflamme noted that the painting of crosswalks and centerlines is scheduled to begin June 16, weather permitting.

A work order has been submitted to place reflectors on the bump outs on Route 16.

Work has recommenced on the skatepark. The City has work to perform related to loaming, seeding, and gravel work. It may be only be available to those on skateboards, however, it may also be open to BMX bikes and roller blades as well. The use of the park will be monitored and the best strategy will be selected.

### **Other**

None

### **Public Comments**

None

### **Member Comments**

Ms. Laflamme noted that there is still one opening for an alternate member on the Planning Board.

Mr. McCue noted that legislation was recently passed that allows for a municipality to enter into a payment in-lieu-of taxes with a facility like the proposed North Country Growers commercial greenhouse. He also spoke of the potential Site Plan Review of the proposed greenhouse on the Burgess Biopower parcel that could be on an agenda in the near future for the Board's consideration.

### **Planner Comments**

Ms. Laflamme explained that the Community Profiles endeavor has selected a slogan and it is, "Building a Better Berlin." A community report will be generated from the undertaking and it will be the basis for the commencement of the City of Berlin's Master Plan.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Remillard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Lefebvre. All in favor, the motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:05pm

The next Planning Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 2, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bryan Chevarie