

**TOWN OF HIGHGATE**  
**Planning Commission Mtg.**  
**January 16, 2018 @ 6pm**

**Approved Minutes**

*NOTE: All actions taken are unanimous unless otherwise stated.*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Luc Dupuis, Chair, opened up the meeting at 6:06pm.

Present for this meeting were:

**Planning Commission Board Members;** Luc Dupuis – Chair; Richard Wilkens – Vice Chair; Thomas Conley; Barbara Chevalier; Bruce Ryan

**Town of Highgate staff:** Wendi Dusablon – Town Clerk & Public Meetings Clerk; Heidi Britch-Valenta – Town Administrator

**Public / Other:** Sharon Bousquet

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Bruce Ryan to accept the minutes from December 19, 2017, as written. The motion was seconded by Tom Conley – **APPROVED.**

**III. OPEN HOUSE EVENT – FEBRUARY 20**

February 20<sup>th</sup> is the next scheduled PC meeting. The Open House event will be held on this date from 5-7pm. Rich has lined up donations for light refreshments from many of the same vendors as last year. He will finalize the list and get that info to Wendi for the flyer. There was discussion on a survey and if one is wanted or needed this year. The survey will be helpful to get feedback from residents as well as circulate a list of accomplished projects at the town level in the past year. The PC would like to involve as many town boards and committees as possible at the Open House event to raise awareness on town projects and goals as well as promote volunteering in our community. Heidi will also reach out to VASA, RiseVT and Efficiency VT.

**IV. DETERMINATION OF ENERGY COMPLIANCE APPLICATION**

Heidi will attend the hearing at NRPC on January 29<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm. As part of the process we have to appoint an energy coordinator as well as have an energy committee. After the January 29<sup>th</sup> hearing they will either recommend us or not, and there will be another hearing on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Heidi noted we are already short one NRPC representative for Highgate. Richard Noel is our only rep at this time. Heidi then went through the application and some of the highlights of it. Future decisions should not be in conflict with this revised plan which will be part of our town plan.

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

Sharon thanked both Wendi and Heidi for all their help this past three day weekend with all the flooding and ice jams. Sharon recapped the board on the issues. Today the Fire Marshall, Health Officers and Fire Department members were knocking on doors in the affected areas of Monument Road, Tanglewood Drive and Jedware Circle. One home on Monument Road was severely damaged. It was very humbling to see people helping each other, neighbor checking on neighbor. Residents were rescued by ATVs and snowmobiles as well as with National Guard vehicles. We are still on alert. Sharon said to “hug a firefighter” and “hug a highway crew member” because they have all gone above and beyond to ensure our safety. Services and resources are available to affected families at the Swanton Village Complex on Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 5pm and Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 1pm. In Highgate, we evacuated 45 people. East Highgate has been ok thus far, but the water did rise considerably there as well. Sharon also thanked AmCare, Sheldon Fire, Franklin Fire, Stowe Rescue, Vonnie Lamotte (ACO), M&C Transport and local farmers Terry Rice and Jack Parent as well as many other local residents who provided food and support. Everyone worked together to get residents safely to the shelter at MVU.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Bruce Ryan to adjourn the meeting @ 7:24pm. The motion was seconded by Rich Wilkens – **APPROVED.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Wendy Dusablon, Town Clerk & Public Meetings Clerk      3/20/18  
Wendi Dusablon      Date

Minutes approved by:

Luc Dupuis, Planning Comm. -- Chair      3/20/18  
Luc Dupuis      Date