

Charleston Town Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes for Public Meeting on September 23, 2021

Members Attending: John Kellogg, Chair; Carmen Murray, Member; Peter Moskovites, ExOfficio; Pat Austin, Ex Officio; Larry Young, Ex Officio. Also Attending: Colleen Kellogg, Assistant Town Clerk

Members Unable to Attend: Blair Moulton, Clerk; Hap Eliason, Member; Eleanor Leger, Member.

The meeting, held in person at the Town Office, was called to order at 5:36 pm by Chair John Kellogg. Minutes of the June 24, 2021 Planning Commission meeting were read. A motion was made by Peter Moskovites to accept the minutes and seconded by Pat Austin. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Old Business, Assistant Town Clerk Colleen Kellogg offered an update on the town's solar array. She reported that the broken panel has been replaced and is now back online, and the communications boards that provide online data on the array must be replaced under warranty. Data on the array is still available to the town through Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC) but only partially accessible to town residents through the town's website. Ms. Kellogg said a new communication panel is on order. Mr. Kellogg asked for a year-end update on the solar array at the December 2021 Planning Commission meeting.

Also under Old Business, Mr. Kellogg offered an update on NEK Broadband's progress toward bringing high speed internet (at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload) to underserved households in the 45 contiguous member towns in Essex, Caledonia, and Orleans counties that comprise the NEK Communications Union District (NEKCUD). He said construction of more than 2500 miles of fiber-optic cable needed to reach an estimated 20,000 underserved households in this region will take 5 to 7 years to complete, with new service expected to begin in some areas by the end of 2022. Mr. Kellogg, who was appointed as the town's representative on NEK Broadband's Board of Directors, reported that a major partnership was established in September 2021 with three other telecommunication operations to leverage state and federal grant funding now available for internet improvement projects. Mr. Kellogg noted that NEK Broadband's Board of Directors meets monthly and that he will report periodically to the Planning Commission and the Selectboard on major NEKCUD developments.

Seeing no items under New Business, Mr. Kellogg asked for a motion to adjourn which was made by Larry Young and seconded by Peter Moskovites. The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm. The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be held at 5:30 pm on December 23, 2021 at the Town Office.

Minutes Accepted on December 23, 2021 by:

John Kellogg, Chair

Blair Moulton, Clerk