

TOWN OF STAMFORD, VERMONT
PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes — July 13, 2026
DRAFT — PENDING APPROVAL

Members Present: Lisa Gramlin (Chair), Pam Tworig, Marta Miller, Debra Burchard, Alden Finney, Jim Stimpson

Members Absent: Natalie O'Neil

Visitors: Callie Fishburn and Samantha Page (Berkshire County Regional Commission); Kurt Gamari (ex-officio member)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Gramlin at 6:01 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation: Callie Fishburn and Samantha Page, BCRC

Town Survey

Twenty-five surveys were completed electronically, with an additional 28 received at the Town Office.

Callie will enter the data from the handwritten surveys and send the Planning Commission a spreadsheet of raw data for review within the next two weeks.

The Board discussed holding a meeting in September to invite public review of and feedback on the survey data, with the goal of ensuring community voices are represented in the updated Town Plan and Bylaws.

Town Plan

Callie asked the Board to begin considering the role it would like BCRC to take in updating the Town Plan. The Board discussed the ways BCRC could assist, including drafting technical data and narrative content while Planning Commission members focus on policies, goals, and action items. Collaborative editing and flexibility in drafting responsibilities were emphasized as key to the best outcome. The final document should strongly reflect local values and be owned by the community.

Callie asked whether the Board would like to invite a speaker to the August meeting to address other topics of interest related to the Town Plan. Given recent discussion of the town's water resources and their relationship to zoning and the Town Plan, the Board asked BCRC to help identify a speaker with relevant expertise for the August meeting.

Callie provided Board members with a copy of the table of contents from the current Town Plan. The order and structure of the sections will be reviewed for possible improvement; Lisa will review the document and bring suggestions to the next meeting.

The Board also discussed the Town Center designation, including the reasons for its current location and parameters. The location was originally determined by state guidance based on historic location and walkability. The Board discussed whether the designation should be modified and, if so, what changes would make the most sense, noting a possible future opportunity to adjust the parameters.

Hearing of Visitors

Kurt Gamari distributed a collection of old Stamford-related newspaper articles and documents that he has accumulated over the years. He asked that Board members review the materials and ensure they are preserved. Each Board member took a portion of the materials to review and share, with a possible plan to compile them in a binder and scan them into electronic format.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Motion by Marta Miller to accept the minutes of June 22, 2026, as presented. Seconded by Alden Finney. Motion carried unanimously.

Zoning Bylaw Update Grant Opportunity

Deb reported that she spoke with Nick of BCRC, who indicated he would assist the Board with a grant application to update the Town's Zoning Bylaws. Work on the grant application is expected to begin in September.

Attendance Policy Revision

Tabled until the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for July 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Tworig, Secretary
Stamford Planning Commission