

**Town of Colton  
Planning Board  
June 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 6p by Chair Kirke Perry.

**Members Present**

Kirke Perry, Jeremy Bronson, Edward Fuhr (arrived at 6:20p), Jeff Rousell, and Anne Townsend.

**Others Present**

Erik C. Backus (and graduate student), Director of Construction Engineering Management for Clarkson University's School of Engineering; Darren Richards, Code Enforcement Officer (left at 647p); and Brittney Gravlin, Acting Secretary.

A quorum was noted.

The agenda was approved with a motion by J. Rousell, seconded by J. Bronson. All in favor.

The minutes of the May 14th regular meeting, previously distributed, were reviewed within the meeting and subsequently approved with a motion by A. Townsend, seconded by J. Bronson. All in favor.

The minutes of the May 21st subdivision permit meeting, previously distributed, were reviewed within the meeting and subsequently approved with a motion by J. Bronson, seconded by J. Rousell. All in favor.

**Courtesy of the Floor**

None presented.

**Correspondence**

None presented.

**Code Enforcement Officer Report**

Year to date, 33 building permits have been processed. No Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) are in process.

**New Business**

J. Rousell notified the Planning Board of a new requirement to qualify for grants: New York State is creating a "Pro Housing Community Designation" where Town Boards will need to pass a resolution in order to continue to qualify for all grant opportunities.

This designation does not commit the Town of Colton to any projects or type of projects, but allows the Town continued access to grant opportunities.

A one-time resolution will need to be passed by the Town of Colton Board establishing the Town as a "Pro Housing Community Designation; annually, the Code Enforcement Officer will be required to submit how many permits were issued for the Town.

## Unfinished Business

Erik C. Backus (and graduate student), Director of Construction Engineering Management for Clarkson University's School of Engineering, presented on the results of the community and student population walkability survey. Overall, the survey reconfirms what the Board + Clarkson Team anticipated. Report on file, items to note are as follows:

### Community Survey

- 194 responses, the majority in the over 60 demographic at 48%.
- Approximately 78% that participated are full year residents; the summer/seasonal responses came in second with approximately 18% of responses, more than what was expected due to the timing of the survey.
- Preferences to: Well maintained roads and trail systems, as well as being ATV / snowmobile / pedestrian friendly.
- Concerns: Roadway space is a large issue, however, does not deter people from walking, biking, etc.

### School Survey (7th - 12th Graders)

- 50 responses.
- Preferences to: Well maintained roads, sidewalks, and the highway shoulders; utilizing roadways as multi-use for such.
- The flow and speed of traffic is not deterring students from utilizing the roadway (walking, biking, etc.) when needed.

Following the results, Mr. Backus led the Planning Board in an exercise to identify key themes in a vision statement for the Comprehensive Plan, comments to note are as follows:

- Ensure the comprehensive plan supports the *year-round* outdoor community of Colton with safe areas for walking, biking, strollers, etc. Do so in a way that is appropriate for the climate and terrain of the North Country, promotes longevity, and cost effectiveness of the project.
- Enhance sidewalks, bridges, and roads throughout Colton/South Colton to be accessible and inclusive for all, conducive to outdoor activities such as walking/biking, and connecting between different population centers.
- Address the want for residents/visitors to conduct outdoor activities with appropriate safety measures, including appropriate lighting, these two things are not currently cohesive.
- Establishing a high pedestrian infrastructure will have an associated cost to ensure the most efficient functionality.
- Incorporate appropriate grant opportunities to support the comprehensive plan when available, reducing taxpayer fiscal responsibility.
- Continue to engage with Colton and South Colton residents for feedback and project progress.

Mr. Backus is expected to return at the July 16, 2024 meeting to review a planning vision memorandum with known concerns, known opportunities, and focus areas identified.

The next meeting was set for July 16, 2024 at 6p.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49p with a motion from J. Bronson, seconded by E. Fuhr. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittney Gravlin  
Acting Secretary