

Worcester Planning Commission
MINUTES
Feb 3, 2026, 6:00pm
Town Hall

Attending: Chani Waterhouse, Rebecca Heintz, Amy Thornton, Will Baker, Toni Kaeding

Housekeeping

- Chani called the meeting to order at 6:15pm
- In a roundtable discussion, Chani asked each participant to share a moment of positive awareness in the face of so much current negativity in our world

Public Comment

Toni relayed a message from Jeff Boudreau, Worcester Recreation Committee, concerning the result of an October 20, 2025 site visit assessment from the Upper Valley Trails Alliance to Worcester Village. The purpose of the visit was to assess the suitability of Village center property for development of a recreational trail. Following that visit, the UVTA offered design guidance, building specs and a suggested budget. The Rec Comm will be seeking grant funding and would appreciate any and all support from the Planning Commission for this endeavor.

Approval of Minutes 12.04.25

Will moved to accept Minutes of Dec 4, 2025 as written, Amy seconded, unanimous.

Action Items

- Review of Commissioner term expiration dates. Chani reported that her term had expired unnoticed and on 2.2.26, the Select Board reappointed her for 6 wks. At that point, Chani will be eligible for a new term. Chani is willing to continue in Chair role for now but actively seeking to transfer that role. Will and Toni agreed to continue in roles of Vice-Chair and Secretary respectively. Rebecca moved to accept new slate of officers as presented, Amy seconded, unanimous.
- Amy introduced notion of new role that serves as coordinator of all Town organizations. Tabled for further discussion,
- The term of Worcester Planning liaison to CVRPC has expired. ACTION: Chani will discuss options with Bill and Selectboard who will make appointment.

Updates

- Annual Planning Report - Group reviewed and approved Worcester Planning Report for 2026 Town Report.
- Energy Plan/Mini MERP Grant - Next steps awaiting Sam Lash action.
- Town Plan – Mid-point Review – Discussion of follow-up actions/recommendations. Updated community assessment and planning to be pursued through assistance from Vermont Community and Rural Development (survey). Identified issues of concern: housing, river flood management, value of Step 2 designation. ACTION: Chani will ask Select Board to write a letter of request to VCRD for assistance with Town Survey. Also, confer with Lincoln/Brian at CVRPC about flood questions. ACTION: Will to seek clarification of Step 2 designation and future land use framework/timeframe with Niki Sabado.

Future Meeting and Adjournment: Next meeting - March 12 (tentative) 6:30pm. Group agreed to continuance of 3rd Thursday schedule.

Chani moved to adjourn, Amy seconded, unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

Toni Kaeding - Secretary