

Worcester Planning Commission
MINUTES
May 21, 2026, 6:30pm
Town Hall

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

Housekeeping

- Chani called the meeting to order at 6:33pm
- Chani prompted a roundtable share of “one good thing about May”
- No revisions to the agenda
- No public comments
- Rebecca moved to accept the minutes of 4.13.26 as written. Chani seconded. Unanimous.

Updates

River Corridor Bylaws

Lincoln Frasca’s (CVRPC) visit to discuss the development of river corridor bylaws for Worcester tentatively rescheduled to July 16 (?) pending Lincoln’s agreement. Discussion prompted secondary discussion about change of regular monthly meeting date...TBD.

VCRD Community Visit Request

Chani and Roger Strobbridge, Worcester Facilities Supervisor, met with representative from Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) to discuss Efficiency VT program that will assist town identify and quantify electrical loads and help develop plan to meet need. Questions: Will plan include related but separate entities, such as Water District and Doty School? What will Worcester’s role be in this initiative? ACTION: Chani will discuss next steps with Roger and report back.

Solar Pavilion on Ladd Field

Toni reported that work has begun on solar pavilion. Ground site work complete, concrete poured, timbers milled and delivered to Yestermorrow for “shaping”. Building to start in June. Following building completion, date of solar panel installation dependent on grant funding and donations. Progress to date is the result of the many citizen volunteers who have contributed time and expertise and dollars.

Act 181 and S325 – Discussion

Amy voiced appreciation that other Towns are taking a public “stand” on the issues. Group lauded the removal of Tier 3 and 800 ft features and will continue to monitor developments.

Future Work, Capacity, and Membership

Chani shared that the overload she is now experiencing with new job as Executive Director of MOSAIC requires that she end her tenure as Chair of Planning Commission by September. Amy described the demands of running 2 businesses (cut flowers and baking mix). No current members eager to assume role of Chair. Brainstorming discussion about identifying new members and new Chair ensued.

Next Meeting

Chani proposed skipping June. ACTION: Chani will identify and announce next meeting date in July. Agenda will include discussion of river corridor bylaws, Energy Plan with possible resilience plan opportunity, and Act 181/S325.

Toni Kaeding

