

**Town of Barnet - Planning Commission Emergency Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
Sunday October 31, 2021 4PM**

Location for physical attendance, as needed:
River Cloud Farm at 804 County Hill Road in Passumpsic.

Meeting notice provided 24 hours ahead of time to all board members through email or personal phone call, per Rules of Procedure..

Members present: Dennis McLam (chair for this meeting, as Ben Adams could not attend), Mark Bowen, Dakota Butterfield, Elizabeth Evans, Zack Mangione, Eric Skovsted

Members absent: Ben Adams, Bruce Denio (submitted written note of support for Commission recommendation), Trent Roy

Members of the public present: Cynthia Stuart, consultant to McIndoes Academy and Zoom convener

Dennis McLam called the meeting to order at 4:03. He presented the first and only item on the agenda: to consider a Planning Commission recommendation in support of the Town of Barnet's municipal grant request to the state of Vermont on behalf of McIndoes Academy, to fund the next step in the development of the Academy building as a community center.

Dakota Butterfield moved that the Planning Commission make a recommendation to support the Town's municipal grant request in support of McIndoes Academy. Elizabeth Evans seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Mark Bowen asked Cynthia Stuart to confirm that drawings sent to Commission members about the grant application which showed Town offices as part of renovation plans for McIndoes Academy were NOT going to be part of the submission to the State for the municipal grant application that would be filed the next day, on November 1st. Stuart confirmed that as correct, and reiterated that the sole purpose for the grant was to develop the McIndoes Academy building as a community center for town residents. Dakota Butterfield pointed out that the grant requires a 10% local match for state funds, and that the Trustees of the Academy had promised to be the source of those funds. Bowen asked to confirm that no town monies were currently involved or being committed as part of the grant; Stuart confirmed that as correct. She also shared that Olive Cheney had willed \$50,000 from her estate to support the preservation of the Academy.

Dakota Butterfield noted that much has already been happening at the MacIndoes building to support community enrichment, and that a number of further things were planned for the winter: ski trails and snoeshowing trails behind the Academy, created by a snowroller; a possible skating rink; and plans for a winter carnival.

Given that the meeting was being conducted over Zoom, McLam called for a role call vote.

M Bowen voted yes
D Butterfield voted yes
E Evans voted yes
Z Mangione voted yes
D McLam voted yes
E Skovsted voted yes

Bowen showed the group a piece of paper containing a note from Bruce Denio, voicing his support for the recommendation. Bruce did not attend the meeting because of logistical issues.

McLam noted that 5 yes votes were necessary to constitute a quorum. 6 members voted yes, and another sent in written support. The motion carried.

After the vote, Bowen asked Stuart to clarify who was paying her to work on the municipal grant application. She stated that the Trustees of the Academy have been the ones to employ her in that work, not the Town. She further stated that she has, however, been recently employed by the Town to work on an RFP for the renovated town offices in the old Town Hall building on Church St, a separate matter.

Butterfield thanked everyone for making the effort to show up for a special meeting under these circumstances.

Dennis McLam adjourned the meeting at 4:10 pm.

Submitted by Dakota Butterfield, standing in for Dawn Holtz, Secretary