

Town of Bristol
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, June 16, 2026
Meeting Minutes
Approved 7/21/26

Members Present: Kevin Hanson, Melissa Hernandez, Chanin Hill, Slim Pickens, Ellen Repstad, Rob Rooker
Staff Present: AZ Larsen, Planning and Zoning Administrator
Others Present: Ron Dendas, Jolyon Larson (ACRPC), Dan Mallach (DuBois & King)

I. Call to Order: Rob called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held in person and via ZOOM.

II. Review agenda for additions, removal, or adjustment of any items per 1 V.S.A. 18 §312(d)(3)(A) and implicit approval.

The date of the minutes to be approved was updated.

III. Public Comment

Nobody requested time to comment.

IV. Social Resilience Process Guide

AZ outlined the work that has been taking place to lay the groundwork for the Social Resilience pilot work which the PC is undertaking in conjunction with the Town Plan update. They reviewed the roles and responsibilities which are part of the program, including those that will be taken on by the PC, noting that some of the strategies established for the Town Plan update will incorporate the Social Resilience processes as included in the guide.

AZ then covered some of the specific work already undertaken: developing work plans, the completed Community Assessment Exercise, and other community connections. Upcoming plans were then outlined; these include data exploration and further community conversations/events, some to be taken on by the Town Plan work groups. Finally, priorities and next steps will be identified as a result of the input received, with the project completion set for November 2026.

The timeline for Town Plan work was then reviewed, with the various milestones to be reached prior to a Town Meeting Day vote for adoption in March 2028.

PC members provided an update on the work groups for which they are part; generally, people are working to find the time to schedule meetings.

V. Town Plan Update

Municipal Planning Grant Kickoff –

Dan Mallach introduced himself, and then each PC member provided some thoughts on ‘land use.’ Jolyon Larson also introduced himself and spoke of the RPC’s energy work and energy’s interrelations with land use.

There was some conversation regarding the balance between freedom for landowners and protection of natural integrity, as well as balancing the continued viability of working lands with the need for housing, and the engagement needed to ensure that this need for balance is able to be discussed fully with community members.

Ideas were generated for ways to provide conversations with local residents. AZ noted that they will be tabling at the Farmers’ Market on Mondays, and that they are gathering email addresses of those interested in being kept informed.

Dan then reviewed an outline of the scope of work which he will be undertaking with the PC and the proposed schedule through the end of 2027, including the following:

- Project management, check-ins
 - Public engagement
 - Public participation plan
 - Town Plan workshops
 - Event tabling
- Research and mapping
 - Regional and in Town Plan
- Information and charts
- Integration of prior planning work
- Document revision and formatting
- Project report
- Drafting the Plan

There was the beginning of what will be a continued conversation regarding the Plan language maintaining the character of Bristol, and yet also needing to be aligned with the Regional Plan in order to be approved.

VI. Administrative Matters

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of May 19, 2026 were approved.

Miscellaneous: Member Availability and Scheduling – it was confirmed that most PC members will be available, and so the regular monthly meeting will be held on July 21.

VII. Public Comment

Ron Dendas commented on the PC's maintaining some focus on planning for a thriving community for all in Bristol.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Chamberlin, Recording Secretary