

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT  
MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION  
Minutes of April 7, 2026**

**6:30 pm at Brown Public Library Community Room**

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm by Chair Royal DeLegge.

**Roll Call:** Present for the meeting were Planning Commission members Royal DeLegge, Elroy Hill, and Doug Shiok. Zoning Administrator & PC Clerk Mitch Osiecki was also present.

PC members Lucas Herring and Brian Massey were absent.

Doug Shiok attended the meeting remotely via Zoom. All others were present in the Community Room.

**Adjustments to Agenda:** No adjustments were proposed, but it was noted that the agenda has a typo (the March meeting was held on March 4, not March 7).

**Motion:** Doug moved to approve the agenda. Elroy seconded.

**Vote to approve: 3-0.**

**Election of Officers**

**Motion:** Elroy nominated Royal DeLegge to serve as Chair. Doug seconded.

**Vote to approve: 3-0.**

**Motion:** Elroy nominated Lucas Herring to serve as Chair. Doug seconded.

**Vote to approve: 3-0.**

Mitch agreed to continue serving as Clerk.

**Meeting Schedule**

**Motion:** Elroy moved that the PC continue to hold meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Doug seconded.

**Vote to approve: 3-0.**

**Minutes**

**Motion:** Elroy moved to approve the minutes of the March 4 meeting. Doug seconded.

Discussion: Doug noted that the draft minutes have an incorrect meeting date in the heading. Mitch reported that he has already caught and corrected that typo.

**Motion to approve the corrected minutes carried: 3-0.**

**Public Participation:** Tom Davis unavailable, so item on the Redline Draft (Zoning Updates) is tabled until next month.

**Old Business**

No updates on any other old business.

**New Business**

*None*

**CVRPC Updates**

Royal provided several updates from the most recent meeting of the CVRPC:

1. Approval of Moretown Town Plan and confirmation of planning process.
  
2. Review Allegation of Open Meeting Law violation.
  
3. Review Legal Opinion – When is Defamation Actionable?

For completeness, Royal’s notes are attached to these minutes.

**Zoning Updates**

Mitch provided an update on various zoning activities and issues around town.

**Other Business**

Discussion of the process by which zoning regulations (including items in Tom Davis’s Redline Draft) will be updated.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 5 at 6:30 pm.

**Adjournment:** Elroy moved to adjourn; Doug seconded.

**Motion carried, 3-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

# **Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Meeting Notes**

## **Meeting of 26-03-10**

### **Approval of Moretown town plan and confirmation of planning process:**

Niki Sabado gave an in-depth update of her collaboration and her work with the town on their plan update. Niki continued that in staff review, she found the plan to meet state planning requirements and to be compatible with the regional plan and neighboring municipalities, especially around watershed boundaries and historic development in Moretown Village.

**Review Allegation of Open Meeting Law violation.** Christian reminded the group that the item under consideration was removed from the agenda through tabling and the individual was not barred from offering general comments regarding the rest of the agenda.

### **Review Legal Opinion - When is Defamation Actionable?**

This agenda item was for discussion only. A legal memorandum was provided in the meeting packet from Attorney Armor outlining the questions and providing responses. Christian read the two short questions presented and their answers:

Question 1. Under what circumstances, if any, can CVRPC bring a defamation claim or otherwise seek relief from statements made by members of the public alleging misconduct by CVRPC as a government entity?

Answer: CVRPC cannot bring defamation claims against individuals criticizing it. Criticism of government entities is fully protected by the First Amendment.

Question 2. Under what circumstances, if any, can an individual public official, bring a defamation claim?

Answer: An individual public official can bring a defamation claim if they can show, by clear and convincing evidence, actual malice. That is, the citizen made a statement with knowledge of its falsity or with reckless disregard to the truest truth or falsity and that the evidence of that malice shows the fact to be highly probable.