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Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices

Meeting Minutes

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Planning Commission

September 23, 2026

Shaftsbury Town Offices and teleconference

Attendees: Planning Commission: Tim Scoggins, Pracilla Sachs, Sarah Costin, Mike Algus, Kenneth Crawford (teleconference); Zoning Administrator Carlyn Mickle;

The chair, Tim Scoggins, called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Approval of minutes was postponed.

Pricilla moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter involving the hiring of a zoning administrator (ZA). Seconded by Sarah. The motion passed unanimously. The commission enter executive session.

At 6:12 the commission returned from executive session.

Sarah moved that the PC recommend that the selectboard hire Lydia Avery as ZA. Seconded by Pricilla. The motion passed unanimously.

Tim invited the commission to brainstorm about the town plan. He first called on Carlyn to make some comments, given her perspective as a younger member of the community.

Carlyn discussed challenges facing young people in our community:

- Childcare in our area is good but there are few options. It is expensive. Childcare for two toddlers from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm during the school year cost around \$38,000. Lack of affordable childcare usually requires one parent to leave the workforce.
- There are no social opportunities for families with children.
- There is no pre-K.

Carlyn cited a lack of infrastructure investment in the town. In particular, the septic

situation in the village center is a long term problem. Young families would like to move into the village to be near the school in affordable homes, but the long term septic situation is an unacceptable risk. The village is composed of hundreds of small septic systems on quarter acre lots. As these systems reach end of life, they cannot be brought up to code due to lack of space. While the state says that owners will be allowed to repair systems to a workable state, houses in such a state will have limited resale value. The long term expectation is that village real estate will decline in value.

She suggested the need for a long term capital plan to address issues like septic in the village.

Carlyn would like to see efforts made to increase community involvement and to create events and an environment that brings citizens together. She gave an example of "Shaftsbury Day" that would highlight local history, resources, crafts, and commerce with an annual fair/festival event.

Mike Albus suggest the need for bike lanes as a topic to include in the town plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm.