

**Salisbury Planning Commission**  
**Minutes of the March 15, 2021--DRAFT**

Members present: Ariell Slater, Morgan Cate, Barrie Bailey, Deb Brighton

Also: Richard Amore, Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Kip Andres

Ariell called the meeting to order at 7:00.

The first discussion topic was the possibility of designating the village as a Village Center.

Village resident and select board member Kip Andres presented a virtual tour of the village--beginning in the 1700's and continuing through last weekend.

Richard Amore, of the state Department of Housing and Community Development, outlined the state's Village Center Designation program. He framed the program as a way to help towns meet a state goal: "to maintain the historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural countryside." He explained that the village designation would give the town access to, and priority for, technical help, grants and tax credits--but it would not impose restrictions. Commission members asked specifically about sidewalks and wastewater and he explained that the designation could help the town to get advice and funding for both. A copy of his presentation is available on the town website.

Katie Raycroft-Meyer presented information on housing, population, housing affordability, and the goals for addressing housing needs in our current plan. Although the town's total population is not growing, its composition has changed. There are now fewer children and more adults—resulting in more (and smaller) households. The data also indicate that many households are paying more than 30% of their income in housing costs. The challenge is to meet the need for smaller and affordable housing units.

One major impediment discussed by the commission is the lack of wastewater infrastructure. Members agreed to follow up on Richard Amore's recommendation to contact the Village Wastewater Solutions Initiative at the Agency of Natural Resources.

Barrie moved to approve the minutes of the January and February meetings. The motion was seconded by Morgan and approved unanimously.

Ariell suggested two topics for the next meeting: listing maps and changes needed in the plan so that Katie and ACRPC can organize their work, and continuing the village discussion—beginning with determining a boundary.

**Homework**

Everyone will consider village boundaries

Katie will send her housing powerpoint and ask for the updated septic map that Barrie wants

Barrie will get the sidewalk feasibility report

Deb will get information on the ANR wastewater program

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 10:02

Submitted by Deb Brighton