

BARRE TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES FOR MARCH 6, 2019

The Town of Barre Planning Commission held a special meeting on **Wednesday, March 6, 2019** beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the **Municipal Building**, 149 Websterville Road.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Byron Atwood, George Clain, Debra Pierce, Cedric Sanborn (Chair), Charles Thygesen, Sr., Chris Violette

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Claire Duke

STAFF PRESENT:

Julie Kimball

OTHERS PRESENT:

N/A

Agenda Item 1 - **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

Additions by Mr. Clain:

Discussion to include Green Mountain Power substation/public hearing and Northern Power during Round Table.

Agenda Item 2 - **ENHANCED ENERGY PLAN**

Comments:

Mr. Violette referred to both his copy sent with the Board package, along with the newly revised copy passed out with Mr. Clain's edits.

Mr. Clain reviewed his initial paragraph stating that renewable and conservation are totally different subjects. Discussion around the definition of "sound management" in the energy sector ensued. Review of Mr. Clain's edits resumed, along with consideration of Mr. Sanborn's comment regarding 90% of the energy used being produced by renewable sources". Discussion followed regarding conservation measures.

Mr. Violette addressed paragraphs with regards to credits by Green Mountain Power and Washington Electric CO-OP. He spoke of energy efficient homes primarily in newer developments versus older neighborhoods such as East Barre, Websterville and Graniteville.

Tables providing historical information were discussed. Mr. Clain asked that a date be provided for Table One – Current Residential Transportation Energy Use.

Discussion was held regarding out-of-state non-renewable energy sources, power portfolio, hydro Quebec, nuclear renewable energy, heat pumps, thermal efficiency improvements, battery power and storage, wind turbines, including their impact on wild life, geothermal, solar arrays, photovoltaics and angles of such, wood as a primary heat source and implications thereof, reducing fossil fuel usage, hybrid vehicle challenges, and bicycles. Conversation also included minor rephrasing edits. Approximately halfway through the (EEP) it was decided to resume with review at the next meeting. Mr. Clain will provide dialogue about hybrid vehicles in winter months, etc.

Agenda Item 3 - **OTHER**

Update on Washington County Mental Health solar projects.

Comments:

Mr. Violette advised that he wanted to emphasize on Beckley Hill. He noted the Radigan's that live on Buena Vista, the street above the Beckley Hill site. They asked for and received intervener status. They were granted an order a) intervene, b) hearing, c) hold joint hearing and d) making claim Grandview and Beckley one project. Mr. Violette indicated there will be a pre-hearing conference before the hearing on Monday, March 11 @ 10:00 a.m. at the People's United Bank in Montpelier. He added that the Beckley Hill project has been redesigned because it is receiving more scrutiny for stormwater which is one of the things the Town pointed out. Mr. Violette read the testimony by Troy McBride which included the detailed wastewater prevention and sediment control plan prepared for Beckley Hill solar noting a moderate risk site. More discussion followed about both solar projects and the upcoming hearing.

Agenda Item 4 - **ROUND TABLE**

Mr. Clain informed the Board about the Green Mountain Power Substation hearing that he and a couple attended. The Public Service Department was also in attendance. The couple, living directly across the street from the substation, expressed their concerns about the working hours, noise and traffic. They proposed GMP working until 5:00 p.m. versus 9:00 p.m. Mr. Clain indicated the Hearing Officer from the Board arrived after the couple left. Consequently, Mr. Clain asked GMP to go on the record expressing the couple's concerns. They were not at liberty to do such so Mr. Clain reiterated the couple's concerns in front of the Hearing Officer, so it was on the record. Mr. Clain did state he received follow-up notice from the attorney with particulars about the project. Further discussion followed regarding tax implications.

Mr. Clain discussed the sale of the Northern Power battery permit to WEG Electric. He questioned the permit process and if WEG Electric now retains the permit that Northern Power applied for. Mr. Violette indicated he received clarification from the Public Utility Commission on the process. The permit was issued to Barre Corp LLC (BCC) and the organization that retained the CPG. Right after the CPG was issued BCC was sold to WEG Electric but still BCC owned (Parent organization) and still subject to all the requirements of the CPG.

Agenda Item 5 - **ADJOURN**

A MOTION by Mr. Clain was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Violette and voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kimball

Cedric Sanborn, Chair

Byron Atwood

George Clain

Debra Pierce

Charles Thygesen, Sr.

Chris Violette