

BARRE TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES FOR MARCH 20, 2019

The Town of Barre Planning Commission held their regular monthly meeting on **Wednesday, March 20, 2019** beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the **Municipal Building**, 149 Websterville Road.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Byron Atwood

STAFF PRESENT:

Julie Kimball

OTHERS PRESENT:

N/A

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

Mr. Sanborn asked if there were any changes to the agenda; there were none.

Agenda Item 2 – **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Sanborn asked for a motion to approve the December 19, 2018 minutes.

A MOTION to accept the minutes was made by Mr. Clain. Ms. Pierce seconded, and all accepted without further discussion. Ms. Duke noted she was absent.

Mr. Sanborn asked for a motion to approve the March 9, 2019 minutes.

A MOTION to accept the minutes was made by Mr. Clain. Ms. Pierce seconded, and all accepted without further discussion. Ms. Duke noted she was absent.

Agenda Item 3 - **ENHANCED ENERGY PLAN**

Comments:

Mr. Violette referred to both his copy sent with the Board package, along with a handout of new revisions by Mr. Clain and Mr. Sanborn compiled the morning of the meeting. The review proceeded where it left off at the last meeting.

Ms. Pierce indicated at the last meeting discussion was held about how current the survey information was. She researched and the “American Commercial Survey” most recently published through the Federal Census Bureau had information from 2017. She stated the Community Dashboard and others were 2017 as well, but only address residential uses.

Topics that entered considerable discussion were as follows: Energy sprawl, degraded land, brownfields, Barre Town school upgrades, 90% renewable energy, battery efficiency in winter, Bicycle travel, Ride Share programs, existing business parking lot coordination for commuter parking, Vermont’s 2016 Comprehensive Energy Plan, battery storage and quantifying megawatt hours, new construction placement to utilize passive solar, combined property wood boiler systems, vans instead of buses on low volume passenger routes, Maps to be included in Appendix B, including a Wildlife habitat map to address locations unsuitable for development.

Agenda Item 4 - **OTHER**

Mr. Violette addressed upcoming Planning Commission meetings to include a Special Meeting on Wednesday, April 3 to potentially finalize the Enhanced Energy Plan draft. Thereafter, invite the Regional Planning Committee to the

Regular Meeting on Wednesday, April 17. If all goes accordingly, warn a public hearing for May. Once public hearings are complete, and the Plan goes to the Selectboard the Regional Planning Committee will review again for final confirmation.

Mr. Violette mentioned the Town Plan is due to expire in May and work needs to commence. He handed out review/preparatory materials to the members, including: 2014 Town Plan, 2018 Central VT Regional Town Plan Consultation, and VT Legislature requirements for towns to include the flood resiliency element in municipal plans.

Agenda Item 5 - **ROUND TABLE**

Ms. Duke referenced an outside resource she finds helpful for the Planning Commission. The publication called "Common Ground" which was sent to members recently. She distributed previous publications that may be beneficial in planning and thought processes. She indicated it is published twice a year by the National Association of Realtors, but not their personal opinions, rather an independent publication about planning and community.

Mr. Clain mentioned the Beckley Hill and Richardson Road scheduled hearing with regards to the Washington County Mental Health solar projects. Mr. Clain attended the hearing, while Mr. Violette read the transcript. The neighbor, the Radigan's asked for a hearing and asked for the projects to be combined. A site visit will be conducted the first part of April. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Clain provided an update on the Public Service board docket he reviewed regarding battery storage. He noted there is also a 3,600 ft., three-phase line upgrade that will happen from the battery storage unit to the substation. More discussion was held with regards to the temporary substation at the vacant lot on Websterville Road, groundbreaking, timelines to completion, dispatch via Green Mountain Power, etc.

Agenda Item 6 - **ADJOURN**

A MOTION by Ms. Duke was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m., seconded by Ms. Pierce and so voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kimball

Cedric Sanborn, Chair

George Clain

Claire Duke

Debra Pierce

Charles Thygesen, Sr.

Chris Violette