

# BARRE TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION

## MINUTES FOR MAY 15, 2019

The Town of Barre Planning Commission held its regular meeting on **Wednesday, May 15, 2019** beginning at 7:03 p.m. at the **Municipal Building**, 149 Websterville Road.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Debra Pierce, Cedric Sanborn (Chair), Chris Violette, George Clain, Charlie Thygesen Sr.

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Byron Atwood, Claire Duke

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Chris Violette

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

None

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

Mr. Clain asked to have discussion about the energy plan added to other.

Mr. Violette would like to give an update on Green Mountain Powers Websterville substation project.

### Agenda Item 2 – **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Ms. Pierce made a MOTION to accept the April 17, 2019 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Thygesen, the Planning Commission unanimously approved without further discussion.*

### Agenda Item 2 – **TOWN PLAN**

Mr. Sanborn asked Mr. Violette and Ms. Pierce if they could report on their progress updating the plan over the last month. Both indicated that they didn't have much to report at this time.

Mr. Clain asked whether there is a list of amendments made to the Town Plan over the years since the 2014 plan. Mr. Sanborn noted that there hadn't been too many changes, mostly just the amendment the Planning Commission did regarding the Energy Plan.

The commission discussed that the current plan expires at the end of May and what happens as a result? Mr. Violette summarized the ramifications, the most significant of which are the inability to process zoning amendments and not being eligible for Community Development Block Grants.

Mr. Clain asked whether a plan can be extended as is? Mr. Violette stated that no, not really. You can readopt a plan, but it must, at a minimum, meet the current requirements regarding elements and goals. Otherwise it would never be approved.

Discussion ensued about the fact that the recently completed Energy Plan doesn't get its own review by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) and must wait for the Town Plan to be reviewed. Mr. Violette stated that as discussed last month, it seems as though the information we received last month from the CVRPC differs from when this plan originated in the sense that we were led to believe the Energy Plan would be reviewed separate, as a separate document if the Town chose to go that direction with it. Now we are being told it will be done when the Town Plan is reviewed by the CVRPC.

Mr. Clain suggested that we should push back a little, there is nothing to lose. See if we can get the Energy Plan approved by the CVRPC separate from the Town Plan.

Mr. Violette suggested maybe our representative to the CVRPC could get more information for us and an explanation as to why the plan can't be adopted separate from the Town Plan.

**Motion by Mr. Clain, to direct Mr. Violette to write a letter to Barre Town's representative on the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, to have him inquire why Barre Town's recently finished Energy Plan can't be reviewed and approved separately from the Town Plan, seconded by Mr. Thygesen, unanimously approved.**

Ms. Pierce asked whether anything had been done with the suggested edits that she turned in a while ago. Mr. Violette answered not really. Ms. Pierce suggested that maybe she and Mr. Violette get together and work on the Town Plan together.

Mr. Thygesen asked who determines bear habitat? Nobody really knew but theories were discussed.

Mr. Clain showed a map that he has that shows bear habit which he gave to Mr. Violette to make copies for the rest of the commission.

#### Agenda Item 3 – **OTHER**

##### **Follow up discussion regarding the Energy Plan**

Mr. Clain asked whether anybody has asked the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission how we capture credits for stored energy? This would include large storage batteries as well as the smaller homeowner owned ones like the Tesla's. Mr. Clain suggested Mr. Violette write a letter asking the question.

##### **Update, Green Mountain Powers application to the Public Utility Commission**

Mr. Violette informed commission members that a Certificate of Public Good had been issued to Green Mountain Power for upgrading the Websterville substation. He noted, and George confirmed, that it appears the concerns and/or requests made by the Town were incorporated into the certificate.

Mr. Sanborn asked whether there was anything else commission members wanted to discuss. There was no more discussion.

#### Agenda Item 4 - **ROUND TABLE**

##### Agenda Item 5 - **ADJOURN**

***A MOTION was made by Mr. Thygesen to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m., seconded by Ms. Pierce and so voted unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Violette

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Cedric Sanborn, Chair

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George Clain

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Debra Pierce

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Chris Violette

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Claire Duke

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Byron Atwood

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Charles Thygesen, Sr.

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