

# BARRE TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION

## MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 30, 2019

The Town of Barre Planning Commission held a special meeting on **Wednesday, October 30, 2019** beginning at 7:09 p.m. at the **Municipal Building**, 149 Websterville Road.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Debra Pierce, Cedric Sanborn (Chair), Chris Violette (8:15), George Clain, Mike Gilbar

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Byron Atwood, Charlie Thygesen Sr

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Chris Violette (8:15)

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

None

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

Mr. Sanborn asked whether there were any changes to the agenda, hearing none he moved forward with the published agenda.

### Agenda Item 2 – **REVIEW OF TOWN PLAN EDITS, CHAPTER 5,6, & 7**

The board had lengthy discussions about edits to the three chapters reviewed during this meeting. For more detail, the audio recording is available.

A long discussion, led by Mr. Clain, centered around the ridge line mapping under goals and recommendations regarding scenic preservation (chapter 5, section 5.8) and whether we should narrow the scope of that paragraph or expand and spend the time to identify etc.

More discussion took place as to how the Town Plan is used compared to Zoning Bylaw and other regulatory documents. Mr. Sanborn explained how the Town Plan is a guide it is not regulatory like the other ordinances and how all the plans and guides are used by the Public Utility Commission.

Mr. Clain discussed how the Two-River Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission is using words like shall in their plan basically making it a regulatory document. Mr. Sanborn insists that shall does not belong in a planning document.

Mr. Clain questioned whether the Town was opening itself up to liability for stating in the plan that gravel is mixed with granite. His concern is in relationship to silicosis that can be caused by granite dust. After some discussion it was agreed Mr. Violette would consult with the Town Manager to see whether this practice is still being done and whether there is a concern.

The Commission had a discussion regarding the new 8-year plan vs. the old five-year plan and the requirements to keep working with the new 8-year plan during that period.

Ms. Pierce led a discussion reviewing the new flood resiliency element that she worked on with Mr. Violette.

Mr. Clain raised a question about a sentence in the draft flood resiliency element as it relates to whether it puts the Town at risk for liability. The specific sentence states “The Town can work with landowners in the higher risk of flash flooding to provide the awareness and the best practices on how to reduce the risk and not exasperate the conditions”. Mr. Gilbar said he would check with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, Municipal Assistance Center for guidance.

### **ROUND TABLE**

Mr. Clain asked Mr. Violette whether he knew what the status of the battery storage facility permitted to be built at the old Northern Power Building (Malone Properties) in the Wilson Industrial Park. Mr. Violette does not know but he will try to find out.

Mr. Violette updated the commission on the status of the two Washington County Mental Health Services solar project on Beckley Hill Road and Granview Drive. He told them that there has been an agreement between all parties that will allow the permitting process by the Public Utility Commission to move forward.

Mr. Violette also told the commission that the Town had hired an assistant for him. Her name is Cindy Spaulding and she started on October 28<sup>th</sup>. She couldn't make this meeting but will be at the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**ADJOURN**

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Clain to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gilbar and so voted unanimously at 9:02 p.m.*

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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Michael Gilbar

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Byron Atwood

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Charles Thygesen, Sr.

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