

BARRE TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 20, 2019

The Town of Barre Planning Commission held a special meeting on **Wednesday, November 20, 2019** beginning at 7:06 p.m. at the **Municipal Building**, 149 Websterville Road.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Clain, Cedric Sanborn, Michael Gilbar and Chris Violette

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Debra Pierce, Bryon Atwood and Charles Thygesen, Sr.

STAFF PRESENT:

Chris Violette and Cindy Spaulding

OTHERS PRESENT:

1) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Violette explained there were changes to the agenda. The Board will be reviewing Chapters 8, 10 & 11; add Follow-up at item 4 a and include Chapters 5,6 & 7 for discussion.

2) APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 2019

On motion by Mr. Clain, seconded by Mr. Gilbar, the Commission approved the minutes as written. Vote 4-0-0.

October 30, 2019

On motion by Mr. Gilbar, seconded by Mr. Clain, the Commission approved the minutes with correction to strike the following paragraph as it was a discussion at the October 16th meeting: *“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 will consult with the Town Manager to see whether this practice is still done and whether there is a concern.”* Vote 4-0-0.

3) WORK ON REVIEWING TOWN PLAN PROPOSED REVISIONS

The Commission had lengthy discussions regarding edits to Chapters 8 and 10 reviewed during the meeting. More details on the audio recording is available

Chapter 8: Energy

- Past tense language: history of being proactive
- Definition of Renewable Energy
- Add a new header under Renewable Energy for Battery Storage
- Reference Energy Plan in the Town Plan
- Make Energy Plan an Appendix of the Town Plan

Discussion highlights:

Mr. Clain questioned why some of the language was past tense in the Plan. Mr. Sanborn explained it was a way to show that the Town was moving forward. Mr. Violette elaborated that the Town Plan can be treated as a historical document, much like referring to the Annual Town Report.

Discussion ensued concerning renewable energy, three phase power and battery storage. The consensus is to include “Battery Storage” as a separate header under Renewable Energy.

It was questioned what would happen if there was a conflict between the Town Plan and Energy Plan, which Plan would take precedence? The consensus was that the Energy Plan takes precedence over the Town Plan and we’ll make a note to state just that in the Town Plan.

Chapter 10: Economic Development

- Commercial/Industrial properties on the Grand List
- Wording of Spirits
- Companies named
- Crushing operations
- Concrete vs Asphalt
- Promoting Recreation first

Chapter 11

- Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) with Budget

4) **FOLLOW-UP**

- Chapter 9: Housing; Verbiage from CVRPC on housing distribution plan and numbers still needs to be worked on.
- Numbers narrative from the Water Department and Central Vermont Catholic School outstanding.
- Need to include ACT 171 language: protection of forest blocks and habitat connectors

Chapters 5, 6 and 7 clean copies were provided for members to review.

Mr. Violette provided an overview of the Public Hearing process for the Town Plan before it goes to the Selectboard. Discussion ensued concerning public hearing process and potential zoning bylaw amendments.

5) **DISCUSS NEXT MEETING DATE**

Special Meeting December 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Continued follow up discussion

Mr. Violette and Mr. Clain provided an overview of VLCT's presentation to the Selectboard the previous evening:

- Legislation being introduced in the House & Senate on retail marijuana market, how to implement, regulate and tax
- Potential impact to municipal communities
- Definition of Retail to include or exclude marijuana retail market

Mr. Clain asked Mr. Violette if he received an answer regarding granite dust in crushed granite gravel mixture and its potential health hazard (silicosis). Mr. Violette reported that Mr. Rogers did not have a concern since the granite gravel is the final product.

Mr. Clain reported Mr. Baxter of VLCT advised to reword two sentences in the Flood Resilience: Surface Water Conditions.

- specify the plans being reviewed
In the following sentence: *The town considers areas with higher risk of flash flooding when reviewing plans and addresses those needs.*
- Change the first part of the following sentence
~~*The town can*~~ *The way to do this is to work with landowners in the areas of high-risk flash flooding providing the best practices on how to reduce the risk and not exacerbate the conditions.*

6) **ADJOURN!**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Clain, to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gilbar and so voted unanimously at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Spaulding

Cedric Sanborn, Chair

George Clain

Debra Pierce

Chris Violette

Michael Gilbar

Byron Atwood

Charles Thygesen, Sr.

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