

# BARRE TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION

## MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

The Town of Barre Planning Commission held a meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the **Municipal Building**, 149 Websterville Road.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Cedric Sanborn, Mike Gilbar, Deb Peirce, and Chris Violette

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Bryon Atwood, George Clain and Charles Thygesen, Sr.

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Chris Violette

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

None

### **1) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

No changes to agenda

### **2) APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

*On motion by Mr. Gilbar, seconded by Ms. Pierce, the Commission approved the minutes of March 25, 2020 Public Hearing with corrections. Vote 4-0-0.*

### **3) Overview of Town Plan Adoption**

Discussion ensued amongst attending members regarding the outcome of Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's two public hearings on approving Town of Barre's Town Plan. It was brought to the PC's attention during the public hearings there was a map missing from the Energy Plan which is an addendum in the Town Plan. It was determined by the CVRPC's Municipal Plan Review Committee without the required map detailing "Existing Generation", the plan would not meet the criteria standards for an affirmative determinations of energy compliance.

The PC with the Selectboard support submitted a letter providing a compelling reason why the map was not relevant:

1. The map is not relevant considering that there is always more up to date and accurate data available on the Community Energy Dashboard. Within a few clicks, a Planner, Developer, or Regulator can see current data, not data on a map that could be up to 8 years old.
2. Unlike all other maps, the electric generation map does not set policy or have any regulatory implication at all. The map is a snapshot in time and outdated almost as soon as it is printed.
3. From a historical standpoint, the standards do not require a map to be included to show historical data.
4. If there is a concern for precedent, the precedent would only be for the existing renewable energy generation map, and then only if the same case is made which may very well happen. It will not set precedent for any other part of the plan or any other maps.

The CVRPC Municipal Plan Review Committee recommended to the full CVRPC that the Energy Plan was compliant by stating the missing existing energy generation map was not applicable. The CVRPC approved the Town Plan including giving the Energy Plan a determination of energy compliance.

### **4) FOLLOW-UP**

None

5) **DISCUSS NEXT MEETING DATE**

Mr. Violette provided an overview of a potential zoning change request with regards to road frontage off of West Cobble Hill Road.

Mr. Violette suggested to review the zoning bylaws to see if there were any other changes needed. It was suggested to look at the Town Plan and match it up with the bylaws as a working project.

6) **ADJOURN!**

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Gilbar, to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Pierce and so voted unanimously at 8:10 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Spaulding, Clerk

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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.