

**Town of Barre**  
**Planning Commission**  
September 21, 2022

The Town of Barre Planning Commission held a meeting and public hearing on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road, Websterville, VT.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

In person: Cedric Sanborn, George Clain, Terry Reil, Chris Violette, Mike Gilbar and Craig Chase  
Absent: Byron Atwood

**STAFF PRESENT:**

In person: Chris Violette  
Remote (video) Cindy Spaulding

**OTHERS PRESENT**

No public present

**A) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

Mr. Sanborn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked whether there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. Clain asked to discuss impact fees under Round Table

**B) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

August 10, 2022

*On motion by Mr. Gilbar, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Planning Commission approved the minutes of August 10, 2022 as amended. Vote 6-0-0*

**C) NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT (if necessary limited at chair's discretion)**

Mr. Sanborn asked whether there were any non-agenda comments – there were none.

**D) NEW BUSINESS - NONE**

**E) OLD BUSINESS**

**1) Continued discussion regarding forming an Energy Committee**

Mr. Gilbar provided an overview of his research with the towns of Williston, Randolph and Waterbury on their Energy Committees and how they are formed and function.

He suggested using the Town of Williston as an example, as it is well structured and organized. He also suggested that a five-to-seven-member board with varying experience in the energy field; following its Energy Plan, with bylaws clear stating the committee's objectives, qualified projects and reporting schedule.

Highlights of discussion included the suggestions from the towns contacted in forming such an Energy Advisory Committee:

- Well written charge for clear direction
- Follow the Town's Energy Plan
- Report to the Selectboard & Planning Commission
- Include a staff member on the committee to keep it aligned with the Town Plan
- Members should have some experience/knowledge relevant to the energy field
- Suggestion to merge with Housing Committee (pros and cons)

Mr. Gilbar and Mr. Violette will work on a presentation to the Selectboard proposing an Energy Advisory Committee and its structure.

Mr. Violette announced that next month there is a guest presenting how the Village Center Program works and its pros and cons.

**F) FOLLOW UP - NONE**

**1) Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission**

Mr. Clain reported that the Executive Director has resigned from CVRPC to take a position with the League of Cities and Towns. .

He reported the CVRPC and its towns are part of the West Central Vermont Economic

Development District. (WCVED is comprised of Addison County, Chittenden County, Rutland county and three towns in Orange County). The WCVEDD proposed a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy plan for regional economic development which would meet the current and anticipated economic challenges. He mentioned he is concerns that the influence of the larger counties could impact decision such as mandating the strategic plan in the regional plan and it would be mandated for all towns in their Town Plans, which would be taking away local control from the towns.

**G) ROUND TABLE**

Mr. Clain mentioned he would like the commission to consider reviewing impact fees as future development (residential/business) would be additional to the town's infrastructure and school system.

Mr. Clain reported that the Vermont Cannabis Control Board is issuing licenses to cultivators. He is concerned the extra demand on the electrical grid when the cultivators use grow lights for inside growing and security lights for outside growing. This will cause light pollution by the glow of an outside area, or the structure will illuminate.

Mr. Reil stated he was concern for the smell/odor of the growing plants and asked if the nuisance ordinance should include that. He suggested to review the energy efficiency in the Energy plan and find out how the cannabis is cultivated.

**H) ADJOURN!**

*On motion by Mr. Chase, seconded by Mr. Reil, the Planning Commission adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Vote 7-0-0.*

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Spaulding, Clerk

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Cedric Sanborn, Chair

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Mike Gilbar

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George Clain

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Byron Atwood

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Chris Violette

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Craig Chase

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Terry Reil