

Town of Barre
Planning Commission
August 22, 2023

The Town of Barre Planning Commission held a joint meeting with the Selectboard on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road, Websterville, VT.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

In person: Cedric Sanborn, Terry Reil, George Clain, Alice Farrell

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS:

In person: Paul White, Norma Malone, Justin Bolduc, Bob Nelson and Mike Gilbar.

STAFF PRESENT:

Town Manager Chris Violette, Assistant Town Clerk Tina Lunt

OTHERS PRESENT

1. Joint meeting with Selectboard (Mr. White called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.)

CREATION OF ENERGY COMMITTEE:

Background: For quite some time now, the Planning Commission has been discussing the potential formation of an Energy Committee in Barre Town. The Planning Commission has developed a Charge and would like to present their recommendation that an Energy Committee be formed.

Several members of the Planning Commission were present. Planning Commission Chair Cedric Sanborn gave a brief presentation of the Planning Commission's recommendation that the Selectboard appoint an Energy Committee in accordance with Policy A-1.4 of the Pathways and Implementation Actions outlined Selectboard Minutes of August 22, 2023 Continued: 3 in the Town of Barre Energy Plan. Mr. Sanborn stated the Energy Committee would remain in an advisory role while all decisions would be made by the Selectboard. Additionally, Mr. Sanborn said the Planning Commission is recommending a narrow focus for the Committee's Charge. He noted a five-member Committee would be appropriate, which would include one member from the Planning Commission. Mr. Sanborn suggested it would be beneficial to have someone with grant writing experience as a member of the Energy Committee.

The Energy Committee would focus on reviewing and keeping up to date with State energy polices and regulations, research grant opportunities to increase energy efficiency for Town facilities and infrastructure and implement community outreach for residents and businesses.

Mr. Bolduc shared concerns about the level of staff support that would be needed. Additional concerns were shared regarding the ability to staff another Town committee and the redundancy in programming. Town Manager Chris Violette said he believes there is a benefit to having an Energy Committee, however, staffing is also one of his concerns.

Mrs. Malone suggested the idea of the Energy Committee being a sub-committee of the Planning Commission. Additionally, Chair White suggested merging the Housing Advisory Committee with the Energy Committee. Board members commented that the Housing Advisory Committee has not met for

some time. In closing, Board consensus is they have no objection to creating an Energy Committee, however, further discussion must take place regarding Town committees in general and how to move forward.

Planning Commission members left at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Garbacik, Zoning Administrator

These minutes were an excerpt from the Selectboard meeting of August 22, 2023.

Cedric Sanborn, Chair

Alice Farrell

George Clain

Byron Atwood

Terry Reil

Craig Chase

Rodney Morin

