

BARRE TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

The Town of Barre Planning Commission held their regular meeting on **Wednesday, December 20 , 2017** beginning at **7:00** p.m. at the **Municipal Building**, Lower Websterville.

Members Present:

Cedric Sanborn George Clain
Byron Atwood
Chris Violette Debra Pierce

Members Absent:

Claire Duke
Charlie Thygesen Sr

Staff Present:

Emily Marineau

Others Present:

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the October 11, 2017 meeting minutes by Atwood, second by Clain. Meeting minutes approved unanimously at 7:05pm.

A motion to approve the November 15, 2017 meeting minutes by Violette, second by Pierce. Meeting minutes approved unanimously at 7:07pm.

ENERGY PLAN:

The Planning Commission continued the discussion on the Energy Plan. Pierce went through and made comments in blue on the Energy Plan that was submitted to them from the CVRPC. She had several items that caught her attention which she would like to draw their attention to.

- Page 5, the first sentence: she would like the Town residences to know that the Town has been and will continue to work on the improving the energy standars
- Page 5, Under Solar Energy: she feels that “solar arrays are structurally approve..”
- Page 6, she questioned when the audits were done that the CVRPC refers too.
- Page 8, under Bicycles; questions if this us up to date information.
- Page 9, under table 9: questioned why hybrid vehicles are being excluded as fuel efficient
- Page 11, under Table 11; question if the is existing fuel sources, is this accurate.
- Page 13, again stating that Barre Town is continuously monitoring changes to the landscape through the use of the current Town Master Plan to ensure the growth of the

Town.

- Policy A-2, Page 2; box number 3, she would like to added where it is deemed sustainable for the structure and design..
- Policy B-4, Page 8; box number 6, she would like to add “and established areas”

Pierce reviewed each of the bullet points mention above with the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission would also like to see if someone from the Department of Public Service could come in to talk with them about Solar standards and how they authorize mounting and certify the Solar panels. If they have any inspection process before they approve a structure for solar panels.

Sanborn had also reached out to WEC, GMP and BTMES it see what they were doing to improve on energy consumption. Below are the built points that Sanborn reviewed with the Planning Commission.

BTMES input from Jaime Evans and Principal Scott Griggs

- BTMES uses a wood chip for heat and hot water in the winter. Recently upgraded control panel so the heat pumps work on demand basis
- Receives credits for solar electric generated for the 500 kW system
- Roofing membranes are being replaced to address significant heat loss through the roof and to prevent water leakage into building
- LED lighting replaced old lighting. Grant funded by Efficiency VT.
- Dishwasher in kitchen replaced with a more energy efficient one
- HVAC units replace
- Exterior lighting around the yard replaced with LEDs
- Windows and exterior doors replaced
- Fluorescent tubes currently are use are T-8s.

WEC-Bill Powell

- Pole mounted yard lights are owned by WEC. They will be changed out to LED lamps when current lamps fail
- Transformers are changed out when they fail or if they are being resized (up or down) to meet load current conditions
- WEC is already certified as 100% renewable

GMP- Starr Parnigoni

- Pole mounted yard lights are owned by GMP, changed out at no cost by customer request. GMP also working on a 2 year plan to replace many of them. Market still needs LED version of the typical flood light design for year lights.
- Actively rebuilding substations and upgrading (going to a 2400 system) or changing transformers based on use and “right sizing” for demand
- Working with communities to change over street lamps. Complimented us in Barre Town for being proactive and for the ease in which we change the process was conducted.

Calin would like to see group light replacement brought back. Clain and Pierce are both in agreement that once a bulb had hit the peak efficiency and before the bulb dies it is no longer efficient. They both note that the bulb will take longer to die so if the power companies wait for bulbs to die before replacing them then they are not being efficient. Which group light replacement would help keep the bulbs working at there more efficient status. Pierce and Clain would both like to see a circuit map from GMP, regarding line loss prevention.

Atwood was able to speak with Eric Vorwald from CVRPC in regard to the number of PV systems currently in Barre Town. The information that was given to Atwood is listed below and they PC has discussion the number provided. The PC is not sure that the numbers below are accurate also they are not sure where the data was pulled from. Atwood will follow up the those concerns and get back to the PC.

- Solar sites in Barre Town 110
- 9 ground mounted PV systems, generating 1000 KW or 1.3 million KW hours annually
- 2 ground mounted track PV systems generating 17 KW or 26,000 KW hours annually
- 89 roof mounted PV systems generating 650 KW or 675,000 KW hours annually
- 10 hot water PV systems which generate NO KW but save
- Other: 2 Wind sites in Barre Town with 102 KW capacity, 8- 250 KW annual capacity and 1 Biomass site @ BTEMS with no data known

MOTION:

No motion was made by The Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will continue to review the material that was provided by CVRPC and work on incorporating it into the Town Plan.

MISCELLANEOUS:

FOLLOW-UP:

Last month when Doug Best, from Velco, was in he had asked the Planning Commission if they would provide a letter stating they approve the substation rebuild. Last month the PC didn't have quorum therefore they were not able to discuss approval of a letter. After a light discussion the Planning Commission will approve a letter for Velco supporting the substation rebuild. Clain brought up that because Velco uses electricity to run/heat the small building on site therefore they cannot get the "green" stamp of approval, which he does not feel is right. He would like us to mention in the letter that the Planning Commission would give them a "green" stamp of approval. Clain states that he will reach out to Doug Best and see how he would like to see that worded in the letter.

Violette will type up a letter in support after Clain hears back from Velco.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Cedric Sanborn, seconded by George Clain , the Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve a letter to be written in support of the Velco Substation rebuild located on Prospect Street, Parcel ID: 008/007.00.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Violette states the Planning Commission received a letter from Verizon Wireless stating that they are going to add a telecommunication equipment on an existing pole in South Barre. By adding the equipment, it will improve Verizon Wireless cellular service.

ROUND TABLE:

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by George Clain, seconded by Chris Violette , the Planning Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting of December 20, 2017 at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Marineau

Cedric Sanborn, Chair

Byron Atwood

Charlie Thygesen Sr.

George Clain

Chris Violette

Claire Duke

Debra Pierce