

Draft Minutes Planning Commission Meeting January 26, 2016

Attending: Matt Tell, Staley McDermet, Patti Smith, Tim Segar, Edie Mas, Kate Buttolph
Mary Sargent (Zoning Administrator) , Jean Boardman

Matt called the meeting to order at 5:27 pm.

1. Minutes

Minutes of January 12th meeting approved unanimously.

2. Communications

a). Francie notified Matt that there is a conflict at MES for our next forum February 9th- Fairpoint is planning to come at 6 p,m (same as our time) to discuss broadband issues. After much discussion a decision was reached to hold the public Forum on the last part of the draft zoning at 5 pm, before Fairpoint's meeting.

Tim asked when we were going to have a discussion on the suggestions made at the forums. Some felt if there was low turnout tonight, we could begin the discussion. Edie pointed out that in our timeline it has the revisions to the draft zoning occurring during March, with a 30-day warning when they are complete in April, and the First public hearing in May. This would enable us to discuss changes at our meeting February 23rd and March 8th. with time to revise and review.

b) The Town- both SB and PC- has been asked whether it wants to support the Rutland Solar decision petition that Matt circulated to us. Decision made to have Matt find out if SB has made a decision.

c) On a related topic, Edie reported that she had attended an Energy workshop sponsored by Windham Regional (WRC), to review municipal and regional participation in PSB Act 248 proceedings. Aaron Kisicki, a lawyer who works for the advocacy Department of Public Service (not the PSB) (represents rate-payers), presented a detailed description of how municipalities and interested parties can have a voice in the proceedings under Act 248, obtaining party status. Important points is to be clear in the Town Plan. Not as important in the zoning. If the Town wishes to say no to large development, needs to have rationalization- not just a general "no". There are specific criteria Board considers; 5 are most relevant for parties. The legislature also enacted (last July) a new law Act 56, which gives more guidelines and power to municipalities for large solar installations. Edie collected handouts which she will be glad to share for more information.

d) Alyssa Sabetto from WRC sent out information to all of us on Halifax's Hazard Mitigation Plan. We need to comment by February 8th. Decision to send comments to Matt and if there are none by deadline of Feb 8th, he will notify her. Edie looked at our fluvial map, at streams on the border with Halifax. Three of them are fluvial waters.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 to begin public Forum. Next meeting on February 23rd (as next forum begins at 5 on Feb 9th, and the Fairpoint presentation is after that from 6 to 7).

Respectfully submitted, Edie Mas