

**MINUTES OF THE SHAFTSBURY PLANNING BOARD
SEPTEMBER 2, 2008
COLE HALL
SHAFTSBURY, VERMONT**

Board Present: **Bill Pennebaker, Chris Williams, Norm St. Onge**

Board Absent: **Craig Bruder, Bob Carter,**

Others Present: **Susan Swasta (Recording Secretary)**

1. Call Meeting to Order:

Vice Chairman Chris Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Minutes:

August 12, 2008 Minutes

Bill Pennebaker made motion to approve minutes. Chris Williams seconded.

Motion carried 3-0-0.

3. Actions to be Taken:

There were no actions to be taken.

4. Old Business:

A. Town Plan Revision

The review of the rough draft of the revised Town Plan resumed with section 9.2, Solid Waste. In paragraph one it was agreed to strike "mobile" and to change wording to reflect that the TAM contract runs through this year with option to renew in 2009. Mr. Pennebaker said he would get figures on the Town recycling rate and solid waste tonnage for the end of the section.

In the first round of revision Planning Commission members had decided to retain numbers 3, 4 and 5 under "Goals." It was agreed to change the heading from "Goals" to "Recommendations," and change the wording of 5 to reflect that a swap shed is in the works.

Mr. Williams suggested adding a statement at the end of the narrative section of 9.2 saying that the recommendations of the previous Town Plan are now incorporated in the new zoning bylaw. All agreed. It was also agreed to add a sentence on ongoing methane remediation to the second paragraph of 9.2, which deals with landfill capping. Mr. Pennebaker will work out the wording.

In section 9.3, on public buildings and land, Mr. St. Onge asked if something should be added on lack of progress on Cole Hall maintenance. Mr. Pennebaker said that the second sentence on Cole Hall, referring to ongoing renovations, should be struck. Mr. Williams suggested adding language on Cole Hall maintenance under recommendations.

In section 9.4, Mr. Pennebaker noted that "sheriff" is misspelled. There were no changes for section 9.5. In 9.6, Policies, Mr. Pennebaker recommended replacing "shalls" and "musts" with "shoulds." He also recommended striking "small in scale" in item 2. All agreed.

In 9.7, Recommendations, under item 1, it was agreed to replace "the North Bennington water system

reservoirs" with "open water which feeds the North Bennington water system." Under item 2, Commission members agreed to add a statement that any planned growth in the village center would require consideration of a sewer and water system. Revised figures on the number of water users and water system reserve capacity will be added to section 9.1.

A third recommendation on high speed Internet and cell phone service was added to 9.7. Commission members agreed on the importance of these services in supporting commercial and educational activity and in attracting and retaining a young population. A fourth recommendation was added on Cole Hall and the Town Garage. It states that the garage, located on a congested site and nearing the end of its useful life, should be replaced by a new facility at the Town landfill property. It also states that Cole Hall's deteriorating condition reflects poorly on the Town, so the building should be spruced up.

Section 10.1 was discussed next. Mr. Williams noted that this section requires updating, which will require getting figures from school reports and the school office. It was decided to leave Recommendation #1 as is.

There was discussion of the paragraph on child care centers. It was agreed to strike the last two sentences. It was also agreed to replace Recommendation #2 with new wording to the effect that it's too early to foresee the impact on child care services of incorporating pre-K into the public school system. The Town should monitor the new program to see that it provides an effective level of service.

Mr. Williams asked if they should add a recommendation on school consolidation. Mr. St. Onge suggested including something on monitoring school population. Mr. Williams said that they need demographic projections. He will talk to the School Board president, Betty Benedict, on this.

There were no changes to 11.1, 11.2, 11.3. In 11.4, on natural resources, Mr. Williams noted that it should be Shaftsbury Town Forest, not State Forest. Under 11.5, Mr. Pennebaker suggested adding something concerning a trail system and ATV's, to be based on the Ancient Roads study now underway. It was agreed to add a #4, recommending development of a Town-wide multi-use trail system.

In section 12, on housing, Mr. Williams suggested changing RANC to Regional Affordable Housing Corporation.

In section 13, on energy, Mr. Pennebaker suggested changing "enforced" to "encouraged" in the first paragraph. All agreed. It was also agreed to break up the current last paragraph and make it into a set of recommendations on tax abatement for low-energy consumption building and encouragement of energy conservation in retrofitting or constructing new Town facilities.

In section 14, on municipal finance, Mr. St. Onge stated that they need updated numbers for the first section. Mr. Williams said that Jim Sullivan of the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC), will help with this section, which is required by the state. Commission members agreed to add a recommendation on developing a strategic plan for Town facilities to the section on capital programming.

In section 15, Implementation Program, Mr. Williams suggested adding language on promoting energy efficiency and conservation to the fourth bullet point. Mr. St. Onge will number the bullet points. It was agreed to strike the bullet point on the Conservation Commission. Under the next bullet point, Mr. Pennebaker suggested adding language to the effect that work on a strategic plan for Town facilities should begin as soon as possible.

In section 16, on relationships with neighboring towns, Mr. Pennebaker recommended changing wording in the fourth paragraph to state that increase in truck traffic is a concern instead of

"becoming" a concern. All agreed.

Mr. Williams agreed to do needed research for the section on schools. He reported that Craig Bruder had said that the BCRC will help update chapter three and any other factual content. Jim Sullivan had said that this is not a big enough project to justify a planning grant. The BCRC will do the work as part of its mission.

Mr. St. Onge will have updates incorporated into a revision by the weekend. Mr. Williams said someone needs to contact Josh Gorman for input on stream and aquifer information. Mr. Pennebaker suggested that Mr. Bruder may be able to contact Mr. Gorman.

Mr. Williams made motion to adjourn. Mr. St. Onge seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Swasta