

Shaftsbury Planning Commission
Shaftsbury Town Hall
61 Buck Hill Road

May 12, 2015

Members Present: Chris Williams, (Chair), David Spurr (Vice-Chair), Abigail Beck, William Pennebaker
Others Present: Shelly Stiles, ZA

1) The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Mr. Williams mused that perhaps the PC should apply for a planning grant to made the Bylaw more user friendly.

2) Minutes:

December 9, 2014: Mr. Pennebaker moved to approve; Ms. Beck seconded. It was noted that Mr. Pennebaker's name was misspelled on page 2. The error was corrected. The motion passes 3-0-1 with Mr. Spurr abstaining.

January 13, 2015: Mr. Spurr moved to approve; Mr. Pennebaker seconded. The motion passed 3-0-1 (Mr. Williams abstained.)

April 14, 2015: Mr. Pennebaker moved to approve: Mr. Spurr seconded. The motion passed 3-0-1. (Mr. Williams abstained.)

3) Bylaw updates and review.

Mr. Williams said he believed all the changes made by the voters have correctly incorporated in Ms. Beck's latest version. Any changes the ZA suggested that might change the sense of the document can't be changed at this time. Abigail will keep a red line copy of all changes made, including correcting typos. She will send all the final corrected versions. The ZA will have about 30 copies made and bound, for distribution to Select Board and staff and for sale at a small fee to the general public. Mr. Williams will formally present the revisions to the Select Board.

4) Illuminated signs:

This issue will have to wait for further resolution until Mr. Woolmington, town counsel, can address the issue of illuminated signs.

5) New forms:

Typos will be fixed. The ZA will make sure the applications accurately refer now to the renamed documents. A reference to RBES compliance will be made on the CoO for Zoning Compliance.

The ZA will find out how to confirm that, when required, state building codes have been complied with for construction also permitted by the Town.

6) ZA report:

Ms. Stiles elaborated as to what a compliance letter is and what some of the potential violations she'd listed were all about.

7) Questions for Kyle Mason's visit on May 26:

Ms. Beck wants to know if VT has BMPs. Mr. Williams thinks he's seen them. All will look for them and share the link if it is found.

All want to know what, if anything, can be done at local level to conserve the forest.

Mr. Williams would like to discuss how, if possible, the Town can discourage clear cutting in preparation for selling for development. (The Select Boar requested that such a reference be removed from the Town Plan.) It still happens here – e.g. North Road, recently.

Mr. Williams interested in what sort of enforcement issues Kyle runs into.

Are there any loopholes in the VSA that give the Town jurisdiction?

What about the Town forest off West Mtn. How can we enhance it? Develop it to benefit the citizens of Shaftsbury?

8) Other business

Mr. Pennebaker will inquire of Ned Swanberg when the other River Corridor options might be ready.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p. The next meeting will be held May 26, 2015.

Notes taken by ZA Stiles.