

Shaftsbury Planning Commission  
Shaftsbury Town Hall  
61 Buck Hill Road

August 25, 2015

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm. Present were Chris Williams, Abigail Beck, and David Spurr. Zoning administrator (ZA) Shelly Stiles took the minutes.
2. The August 11, 2015 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Spurr moved to accept them; Ms. Beck seconded the motion. The motion passed, 3-0.
3. Forestry issues:  
Members discussed possible additions to the by law regarding land conversion, which focused on managing invasives whenever land is converted or in the case of forested lands enrolled in UVA. Mr. Williams wondered whether a “carrot” approach might be more acceptable to citizens. What about a density bonus for leaving certain percentages of the parcel in natural vegetation? Mr. Spurr suggested the first acre cleared should be “free.” The idea was dropped after further exploration. The members will research other communities who might offer rewards to conserving natural vegetation on residential lots. Mr. Williams will follow up on his letter to Forests Parks and Recreation commissioner Michael Snyder after Labor Day.
4. Municipal planning grant  
Mr. Williams reported that the Select Board chair hopes a grant can be secured to 1) bring clarity and eliminate contradictions; and 2) change policy to allow ZA to sign off on more applications and require fewer DRB approvals. Mr. Williams was concerned that the commission might put in a lot of time only to have the Select Board decline to support any changes: he said the board needs to express some goals from the beginning. Ms. Beck and Mr. Spurr voiced concern about having to give more time to their Commission responsibilities and asked for replacements. A resident’s name was suggested as a possible member. Mr. Williams will follow up with the family. Mr. Williams said he’d reach out to the Regional Commission for help in writing the grant.
5. Other business  
Mr. Williams reported on a project in Glastenbury on 1100 acres recently purchased by a Connecticut resident. Fayville Rd. has been illegally gated, a sauna was built, and a shooting range was built to serve Navy Seals. A second hearing on the matter will be held September 9. Mr. Williams said “what happens in Glastenbury affects Shaftsbury.”

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 8:30 p.m.