

Shaftsbury Planning Commission
August 8, 2017

- 1) The meeting came to order at 7:07 pm. Present were commissioners Chris Williams (chair), Michael Foley, and Michael Cichanowski; Select Board chair Tim Scoggins; and zoning administrator Shelly Stiles.

Mr. Williams updated Mr. Scoggins on trail efforts, that the Commission had agreed to see if it can create a pilot project – off Blueberry Hill Rd. to the town forest. It was agreed they'd make an autumn trip to the forest.

Mr. Williams reminded the group that they'd hoped to make a site visit to the Dailey pre-fab plant. He will contact Brian Lent there after Labor Day.

- 2) Mr. Foley moved to approve the June 13, 2017 minutes. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.
- 3) Mr. Cichanowski shared updates to the packets he prepared for potential developers of commercial space, which are incorporated by reference in these minutes. (Perhaps the cookie store opposite Paulins and parts of Eagle Square could be added.) It was agreed that the commission would do research into how their case study stores were financed, their ownership structures, and how the communities were involved. The commission will prepare a report for the Select Board.

Mr. Cichanowski shared an idea for how to dress up Cole Hall's boarded up bell tower with a metal sign of some sort. It could cost about \$500-\$600.

4) Regional Energy Plan

Mr. Williams said he was taken with the degree of social transformation and capital investment that would be required to accomplish the goals of the plan. He noted that it focuses on things over which local communities and residents have some control. He said the motivation could be economic security, self-sufficiency. Mr. Scoggins said the Town could do a better job of publicizing assistance for residents offered by entities such as Efficiency Vermont. There are no affordable energy-efficient replacements for mobile homes. Mr. Foley said he was struck by the Plan's report on the number of miles driven in the county daily, many going in the same direction, and said he would try to arrange to ride-share. Go Vermont is mentioned in the Plan as a resource for ride-sharing.

Mr. Williams will ask Jim Sullivan to visit to talk about the Plan. He and Mr. Scoggins agreed that it didn't make sense to develop a town energy plan as the template seems to address only solar siting, and the Town has no policy regarding that issue.

Mr. Foley mentioned biomass and pending legislation in MA that would offer credits like those offered to solar and wind for community biomass projects – despite their potential significant air quality effects.

Mr. Williams said the Shires project at Lake Paran has been stalled as no one is willing to say "yes" to connecting it to N. Bennington water or Bennington sewer.

The next meeting will be held August 22.

The meeting adjourned at about 9 pm.