

Shaftsbury Planning Commission

October 24, 2017

The meeting came to order at 7 pm. Present were PC members Chris Williams (chair), Mike Foley, and Mike Cichanowski. Also present was zoning administrator Shelly Stiles.

Mr. Cichanowski moved to adopt the 9.26.17 minutes. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. He suggested two changes. The minutes as corrected were adopted 3-0-0.

Mr. Cichanowski moved to adopt the 10.10.17 minutes. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

The commission reflected on the 10.10.17 visit to the Dailey Precast plant. Mr. Williams said he thought of the plant as a way to add value to a Shaftsbury local resource – its sand and gravel – and that such an operation couldn't be easily moved away, e.g. overseas.

The commission went through several items nearing completion.

- The members agreed that, having submitted their report on potential commercial sites in the village center to the Select Board, there is nothing more to do regarding that matter.
- Re a town energy plan: Mr. Cichanowski suggested a reason to produce such a document could be to capture some of the millions of energy dollars that now leave the county annually. Mr. Williams suggested an argument in favor of the plan should be framed in terms of economic security. Members agreed that it could be useful to work on such a plan but postponed further discussion to later meetings.
- Re trails: Mr. Williams will produce a memo to the Select Board re the Town forest access, mentioning the need for parking, to mark the boundaries, to mark the trail, and to create a destination feature such as an overlook at the top. The memo would note that some investment by the town would be required, as would the cooperation of neighboring landowners. Meanwhile, the two existing facilities – the State Park and Robert Frost Trail – are on the web. Mr. Cichanowski will mention to Mr. Scoggins that the new Town website might also mention these facilities.
- Re Iron Kettle Motel: Mr. Williams will ask Dan Monks in Bennington how that town handles such facilities. The commission could write a new definition, modify the definition of “motel,” or modify the adaptive reuse bylaw to include a communal kitchen and compliance with fire safety code.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Notes by ZA Stiles.