

Shaftsbury Planning Commission
December 13, 2016

The meeting came to order at 7:10 p.m. Present were commissioners Chris Williams (chair), Mike Foley, and Dave Mance, and zoning administrator Shelly Stiles.

Mr. Mance moved to approve the October 11, 2016 minutes. Mr. Foley seconded the motion, which passed 3-0. Mr. Williams signed the minutes.

Next steps for Commission: the discussion included

- Mr. Williams reported to the Select Board that no changes were needed in the PC budget and request that the PC be level funded. He noted that the Municipal Planning Grant will cover the costs of the bylaw revision process.
- The Select Board suggested the PC might want to discuss how to help citizens comply with the organics provision of the recycling law.
- The SB suggested the PC might want to discuss changes to the Town Plan in the context of Act 174 and Town siting requirements. It was agreed that wind installations were unlikely in the town. Mr. Mance suggested aesthetics could be important; screening of solar arrays might be an issue to address. Mr. Foley said some neighbors might need protecting. Mr. Mance wondered about protecting prime ag soils from solar developments. Mr. Williams suggested rules applied to solar arrays should be applied to other structures as well; maybe residences should be sited to minimize impacts to adjoining. Abandoned gravel pits would be excellent locations for solar arrays, though some may not be close to distribution lines.
- Mr. Foley said he'd be interested in discussing ridgeline protection, if others were also interested.
- The PC discussed various energy efficiency issues.
- Members will try to attend an Act 174 workshop to be offered by the Regional Commission on December 15, 2016.

Mr. Williams said the Select Board is considering holding an informational meeting on the bylaw revision. Mr. Mance suggested the second PC meeting in February could be advertised as a Q&A session for the public. (Mr. Foley suggested advertising the meeting using the town's sandwich board, and the Banner calendar.) It was agreed the vote on the bylaw could depend on how the ballot questions are worded. We will know by the end of the year what that language will be.

Members agreed that getting younger people to serve is a good idea. Perhaps a Town Government table could be set up at next year's Big Truck Night at the school.

Mr. Mance will be away for the month of January, so a quorum will not be available. The next meeting will be held February 14, 2017.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 8:05 p.m.