

Shaftsbury Planning Commission
December 11, 2018

The meeting, which was held at the Shaftsbury Elementary School, came to order at 7:04 p.m., Present were commissioners Chris Williams (chair), Mike Foley, and Mike Cichanowski. Also present was Select Board chair Tim Scoggins and zoning administrator Shelly Stiles.

Mr. Foley moved to approve the November 27, 2018 minutes. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Williams reported on his presentation to the Select Board. of the results of the PC's conversation on a proposal to extend the RC zone northward to the Arlington town line. Mr. Scoggins said neither the Select Board nor the member who introduced the proposal seemed to be inclined to pursue the matter.

Mr. Scoggins reported on an initiative discussed at the recent SVT Connectivity Summit, to wit: to conduct a survey of residents regarding their cable/broadband and cell service. The survey has been drafted. Mr. Scoggins will share the survey. Mr. Scoggins encouraged the PC to pursue the project: it would support the regional effort, and identify gaps that the Town might be able to address with grants (e.g. USDA Rural Development). Mr. Williams wondered whether it would be beyond the capabilities of the volunteer PC, especially now that the PC's Municipal Planning Grant has been denied. (It would have paid BCRC to assist in revising the Town Plan.) Mr. Scoggins said he'd asked the Select Board to add \$3500 to the FY 2020 PC budget. The group discussed what the effort might look like: an ad in the Banner asking for people to call in? A mailing? (We should expect only 20% return.) Contacting the providers to get their base maps, then field-verifying that information? Mr. Williams will ask Michael Batcher at BCRC what he thinks of this idea and how to best proceed. Mr. Cichanowski wondered if we could seek a grant to implement 5G (which has an entirely different architecture from existing systems). Mr. Cichanowski said access to broad band and cell service is probably the most important determinant of new economic growth in a rural town like Shaftsbury.

The group discussed progress on rewriting Town Plan chapters. Michael Cichanowski said he would bring his laptop in to display the work to date in Google Docs. Mr. Williams said he was impressed with the North Bennington plan's use of graphics, which gave the document extra punch. The group discussed shortening or deleting sections such as "History" and "Historic Preservation" which have no action items. As for energy, the major action item would seem to be "the Town will continue to 'pull with the team' [that is, promote state policies re renewables].

The meeting adjourned at about 8:10 pm.