

Shaftsbury Planning Commission  
February 19, 2019

The meeting came to order at 6:07 p.m. Present were commissioners Chris Williams (chair), Naomi Miller, Mike Foley, and Mike Cichanowski. Select Board chair Tim Scoggins and zoning administrator Shelly Stiles were also present.

Ms. Miller moved to approve the January 8 minutes. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Mr. Williams updated the commission on a meeting with Michael Batcher at BCRC he and Mr. Scoggins attended. They agreed to contract with BCRC for \$3500 for help with the Plan – including reviewing sections, helping with sections not already covered, and updating maps. BCRC will also assist with the broadband connectivity survey, for an additional fee. The information gained will be incorporated in the Plan.

Mr. Williams apprised the group of a zoning violation at Paulin's. About five or six years ago, the owner took the town to Environmental Court over the town's sign permit requirements (and lost). Mr. Williams noticed recently that additional signs have been put up, contrary to the decision of the Environmental Court. The zoning administrator will review the files and, if necessary, issue a notice of possible violation to Paulin's (if for no other reason than to apprise the new owners of their responsibilities). She will also examine new banners at All Out Septic, which may be non-compliant. Mr. Williams asked the zoning administrator to more energetically search for zoning violations, not simply rely on complaints to bring them to her attention.

The group turned to a review of the proposed new Natural Resources chapter in the Town plan. The wide-ranging discussion included as conclusions  
That something already in the bylaw should probably be also mentioned in the Town Plan. Plan mention justifies its inclusion in the bylaw.

PFOA should not be directly referred to.

Unique natural features and similar items might best be described in a "current conditions" or "background" section.

Mr. Scoggins said in some cases, endorsement of a concept was sufficient, but in others he wanted to know what the commissioners wanted the Select Board to do.

Perhaps BMPs for sand and gravel extraction and logging could be referenced. All agreed that it made no sense to suggest in the plan that "the law shall be followed."

Some confusion about difference between degradation and harm caused by people, events etc.

Suggestion: conflate the two, and address water quality, earth resources, forests etc there

Mr. Scoggins highlighted the many links between natural resources and the economy

Ms. Miller said she thought the Plan should acknowledge the tension between using our natural resources and conserving them.

Mr. Foley and Ms. Miller will reach out to the recreation committee.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 8:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held February 26.

Notes by ZA Stiles.