

Shaftsbury Planning Commission
March 26, 2019

The meeting came to order at 6:02 p.m. Present were commissioners Chris Williams (chair), Mike Foley, Naomi Miller, and Mike Cichanowski. Also present were Select Board chair Tim Scoggins and zoning administrator Shelly Stiles.

Mr. Scoggins gave us an overview of the town-sponsored survey of internet and cell coverage. Of those responding, about 40% said they had no cell, 10% no internet, and 60% thought both were important. 80% would support the town in seeking to improve coverage. Mr. Scoggins said he'd just learned that a USDA Rural Development grant to improve connectivity he'd been working on was not the right fit for the town. The applicant would have to own the new equipment. Mr. Scoggins described the Public Utility Commission's travels around the state, with six smart phones from separate cell coverage carriers, to document who has service, where. Mr. Scoggins borrowed the phones from the PUC, and has been driving the roads of Town. The reports on coverage can be sorted by carrier, and so will help residents decide who to go to for service in the future.

Town plan review:

Mr. Foley reported on his recent efforts.

Mr. Williams said he'd like to sit down with Ms. Miller to go over what the town can and can't regulate.

Mr. Cichanowski put the latest draft Plan up on a screen and described his work on Chapter 14.

Mr. Williams presented a hard copy of a new Historic Preservation chapter. He asked the members if they would accept adding to the list of historic houses the Potter Montgomery House and the Douglas House near Tunic Road. Mr. Cichanowski said we need criteria by which to judge a building historic. MR. Scoggins suggested notifying any landowners not already referenced that we planned to include their buildings, and getting their permission to do so.

(An aside: DPW work for Water District billed separately to Water.)

Mr. Cichanowski will send out the full draft when it's in his hands.

Mr. Scoggins would like the plan to reference arts and culture and the role, however informal, they might play in the town's economy.

The commission will fluff up an existing section on Agriculture.

Mr. Foley moved to approve the Feb. 26, 2019 minutes. Ms. Miller seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation.

The meeting closed at 7:40 p.m.

Notes by ZA Stiles