

Shaftsbury Planning Commission
December 18, 2019

The meeting came to order at 6:04 pm. Present were commissioners Chris Williams (chair), Mike Foley, and Mike Cichanowski. Zoning administrator Shelly Stiles was also present.

Mr. Foley moved to adopt the Nov. 26 minutes. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-0.

The group turned to which actions listed in the Town Plan it would follow up on. Mr. Williams said he'd take on the town forest, but warned it would be a slow-moving process as it might need negotiating for easements or other instruments. The ZA suggested Mr. Williams talk to Dave Mance, who stopped by the zoning office with information relevant to the effort to access the town forest.

Mr. Foley will work with the Recreation Committee on improving the Lake Shaftsbury trail, improving the entrance to Howard Park, and looking into a sign for the park on Route 7A.

Mr. Cichanowski will ensure that educating the public regarding energy efficiency is incorporated in the ZA job description. The ZA will send him a copy of the description.

The group moved to other business and discussed:

How to review solar projects. After a lengthy discussion, no consensus was reached as to what the review criteria should be. It was noted that according to Map 12.1 in the Plan, 3-phase power is miles away but there are no constraints on the site.

Pet boarding was postponed to a time when Ms. Miller could be present (she had agreed to research other towns' rules re kennels).

Roadside commercial expansion. It was agreed that the question of what is to happen to the Second Chance building can not color the Commission's review of an expanded zone. RC in the northern part of the town is clearly inappropriate. It does, however, make sense to extend it zone from the Village to the Town line. It might also make sense to place RC at the corner of 7A and Hidden Valley, where there is already a small commercial enclave, but it was agreed that the Commissioners would "take the temperature" of those to be impacted first before proposing any change. Mr. Cichanowski noted that Vermont doesn't protect businesses the way it protects farmers, and that we've done a great job of creating a hospitable environment for second home owners but not for the little guy.

The meeting ended at 8 pm.

Notes by ZA Stiles.