

Energy Committee Minutes

October 3, 2017

7:00 – 8:45 PM

Town Hall

In attendance: Members Matt Burke, Rebecca Foster, Suzy Hodgson, Megan Mahoney, John Quinney, and guest Carrie Fenn, SunCommon.

The September minutes (9/5/17) approved.

A public hearing on the Town Plan is scheduled for Oct 12 when the energy tomorrow chapter will be reviewed. As agreed at a meeting on 9/18 (between Peter Joslin and Marty Illick from the Planning Commission, Rebecca, Matt, Deirdre from the EC, Dean Bloch, and Emily Nosse-Leirer from CCRPC) Matt and Rebecca will craft an introduction to the Energy Tomorrow section stating the Town's commitment to edit the section at a future point to be in compliance with Act 174. The language will be sent to the PC in advance of the 10/12 meeting. The commitment to be in Act 174 compliance will then be securely in place when the Town Plan is presumably approved next March. Also, Matt will draft a new Energy Today section, which we will offer to the PC even though it was not requested.

The committee discussed when our potential collaborative meeting with the PC would be held.

Information on Plan approval and reviewing drafts: Between now and July 2018, if any town submits a town plan for review it goes to Dept of Public Service. Once the CCRPC's regional plan receives its certificate of compliance, deadline July 1 2018, CCRPC will be our review body for the Town Plan. CCRPC has offered to review our plan at any point, and meanwhile they will provide information for towns as it is updated including: maps, targets, status, and base-line (where we are now). A rep from DPS is willing to review the Town Plan as well as Johanna Miller, VNRC.

It was decided to ask for more commitment from CCRPC for drafting. CCRPC will send assessment of Town's memo regarding the known and potential constraints in the next month. CCRPC Planning advisory subcommittee will be reviewing our plan and commenting on it.

Note that the PC wants to go ahead with its schedule for Town Plan revisions by Town meeting day, which means there are minimal opportunities for changes to the Town Plan prior to Town meeting day.

We can learn from Hinesburg energy committee and planning.

Town planner, Daryl Benoit, was passing by and so joined the meeting. The Committee discussed the lack of knowledge and notice about planning applications

especially when some have significance for energy planning (e.g. Maplefields). Daryl explained that all the planning and sketch plans are posted on Town's website – for planning applications and sketch plan review, see http://www.charlottevt.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={262B925A-6DAB-4797-A891-6582D5E9DD1D}

Typically two to four planning applications are reviewed per month.

Daryl requested that the EC study the wording in the Energy Tomorrow section that is highlighted and unresolved. Rebecca will look at it and offer alternative wording prior to the 10/12 meeting.

Carrie made her presentation to the committee about wanting to make a solar presentation for Charlotte. We will make that part of the ButtonUp sessions and include additional speakers so that there isn't an appearance of favoring one vendor.

Next steps

1. Organize Button-Up sessions & commitments to Efficiency VT re: "signing up"
2. Library project & Fire Station Audit – move forward to future meeting
3. Forests as part of Town Plan -- Marty is concerned that the Plan is not as strong as it should be. Pertinent language in climate section of Town Plan. Suzy to refer to Charlotte's Conservation Commission

Reference: biofinder update tool, new requirements for forestry planning - <http://vnrc.org/programs/forests-wildlife/guide/>

Matt Burke briefed the Committee re the municipal day he and Deirdre attended.

Meeting Adjourned 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Suzy Hodgson