

BARRE TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

The Town of Barre Planning Commission held its regular meeting on **Wednesday, February 17, 2016** beginning at **7:00** p.m. at the **Municipal Building**, Lower Websterville, to consider the following:

Members Present:

Charlie Thygesen John Hameline
Chris Violette George Clain

Members Absent:

Cedric Sanborn Claire Duke Debra Pierce

Others Present:

1) **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes from January 20, 2016 will be approved at the March 16, 2016 meeting.

3) **WARNED PUBLIC HEARINGS (7:05 p.m.)**

4) **ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT(S):**

None

5) **TOWN PLAN AMENDMENT(S):**

Included in your packets is the proposed Town Plan amendment to the renewable energy section of the energy chapter. I've included two copies, one showing the changes and one clean copy that has the changes but not the old language.

In talking with Cedric, we'd like to plan for a public hearing on April 20th. Hopefully the proposed changes will be satisfactory and between this meeting and the next one I can finalize the report that is required. I'd then present the report and the final proposed amendments to the PC at the March 16th meeting. I'd have a very short window after the March 16th meeting to notify the statutory parties within the required 30 days.

Public hearing date will be set at the March 16, 2016 meeting, tentatively scheduled for April 20, 2016.

All changes were made in the document.

6) **OTHER:**

Discuss house bills H.596, H.597, H.598, H.599 and whether the Planning Commission wishes to write a letter of support. Discuss whether to write a joint letter with the Selectboard or one just from the P.C.

I sent these four bills to you all via email shortly after I became aware of them. I've included hard copies in your packets this month as well. I'd like to discuss them and decide whether to take a position and send a letter to our legislators.

The Selectboard discussed these bills at their meeting on February 9th. Cedric and George attended that meeting at the Selectboards request. I believe the Selectboard is hoping to have a unified and possibly a joint response to these bills. George will be able to fill us in more about what went on at the meeting but I understand that the Selectboard decided to support H.596 and H.597. They felt that these two bills represent the most with regard to the interest of Barre Town.

I expect Rob LeClair from the Selectboard to be in attendance. We may also have a draft letter from the Selectboard.

On a motion by Clain, seconded by Violette, the Planning Commission voted to sign a written letter in conjunction with the Selectboard in regards to the above mentioned bills.

Discuss Senate bill S. 241 (the legalization of marijuana) and how the Town of Barre may want to respond to allowing a marijuana facility in Barre Town.

Very little discussion took place. Clain would like to see this on the ballot for Barre Town residents to vote on and he expressed his interest in not having a facility in the Town. Violette suggested the PC wait for all members to be present to have this discussion in more detail.

7) **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Solar siting task force report – included in the packet.

8) **ADJOURN!**

On a motion by Hameline, seconded by Clain, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting of February 17, 2016 at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi Bennett

Cedric Sanborn, Chair

John Hameline

Chris Violette

Charlie Thygesen Sr.

Claire Duke

George Clain

Debra Pierce

DRAFT