

BARRE TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

The Town of Barre Planning Commission held its regular meeting on **Wednesday, March 16, 2016** beginning at **7:00** p.m. at the **Municipal Building**, Lower Websterville, to consider the following:

Members Present:

Cedric Sanborn Charlie Thygesen
John Hameline George Clain

Members Absent:

Chris Violette Claire Duke Debra Pierce

Others Present:

Jack Mitchell Alex Barvakis

1) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes from January 20 and February 17, 2016 will be approved at the April 20, 2016 meeting.

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

None

4) OTHER :

Novus Energy presenting the landscaping / screening plan for the Beckley Hill Solar project.

Alex Bravakis from Novus Energy was present to discuss the screening for the Beckley Hill project; handed out larger maps for the board to see.

Alex stated that this is the first project that they've done along a road, as they like to be hidden. They have asked for an extensive mitigation plan and are awaiting approval. Alex says the mitigation plan is important, but will be expensive.

Alex states that the land owner spoke to his neighbors and they seem favorable. Novus has received one letter in favor of the project.

Alex stated he's dealing with some wetlands on this property, which are shown on the map.

Alex stated he's not sure who will be taking the net metering credits, but they should be staying in Washington County.

Alex says this may be the last of the projects as the rules are changing and Novus is focusing on brownfield sites.

Sanborn stated the screening has been done really well.

Sanborn would like a better description of the plantings, including the size of the trees at the time of planting.

Clain asked if there will be a mortality rate with the plantings; Alex said he'd check.

Sanborn would like to see black solar panels to avoid drivers being blinded; Alex said he'd look into a different casing color.

Thygesen wants to know what happens when the investment company goes belly up; Alex stated that there are investors and banks involved in any project.

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

Minor edits to the proposed changes were completed in the draft. Selectboard rep, Jack Mitchell, was in attendance with some questions that we're answered.

Public hearing is scheduled for April 20, 2016.

6) **OTHER:**

7) **CORRESPONDENCE:**

8) **ADJOURN!**

On a motion by Clain, seconded by Thygesen, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting of March 16, 2016 at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi Bennett

Cedric Sanborn, Chair

John Hameline

Chris Violette

Charlie Thygesen Sr.

Claire Duke

George Clain

Debra Pierce

DRAFT