

BARRE TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

The Town of Barre Planning Commission held a special meeting on **Wednesday, September 14, 2016** beginning at **6:00** p.m. at the **Municipal Building**, Lower Websterville.

Members Present:

Cedric Sanborn Charlie Thygesen Sr. John Hameline
Debra Pierce (6:15pm) Chris Violette

Members Absent:

Claire Duke George Clain

Others Present:

None

1) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

None

3) WARNED PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

4) TOWN PLAN AMENDMENT(S):

Review final proposed amendments to Town Plan chapters 3, 5, and 8 (Transportation, Preservation and Energy) in advance of public hearing October 19, 2016.

Sanborn opened the meeting and gave a brief overview of how we got to this point noting that Pierce, Violette, and he had met between the last regular meeting and now. This meeting is to finalize the amendments and prepare to warn a public hearing on October 19th.

Sanborn stated that he had been to a meeting and as a result of that meeting with the Public Service Department we should add new language to the transportation section to encourage energy conservation as whole within the transportation realm.

The commission made a few grammatical changes to the proposed transportation amendment.

The preservation section was not reviewed because the commission just rewrote it at the last meeting.

The commission then went through the energy section and made several spelling and grammatical

corrections.

The commission also spent a lot of time talking about solar siting and agricultural land. The main concern with siting solar developments on open and prime agricultural land is that Barre Town has a lot of land that fits that description and is also south facing and close to three-phase power. The question is how does the Town control how much of this prime open land ultimately get developed with solar. How can a reasonable compromise be reached. Current rules do not seem to allow for anything that will make both sides comfortable.

The commission also discussed the soon to be released regional and municipal energy planning standards being drafted by the Public Service Department. These standards will need to be incorporated into Town Plans in order for a Town Plan to be given substantial deference in front of the Public Service Board.

Violette noted that the standards will be all geared towards meeting the State's energy plan and its 90% renewable goal. In the end, he believes the standards will be very difficult for the average town to meet thus making very little difference in the long.

On a motion by Violette, seconded by Pierce, the Planning Commission voted to accepted revisions to chapters 3, 5, and 8 of the Barre Town Municipal Plan and to warn a public hearing for October 19, 2016 at 7:00pm. All in favor (Duke & Clain were not present for the vote)

- 5) **FOLLOW UP:**
- 6) **OTHER:**
- 7) **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 8) **ADJOURN:**

On a motion by Violette, seconded by Thygesen, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting of September 14, 2016 at 7:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Violette

Cedric Sanborn, Chair

John Hameline

Charlie Thygesen Sr.

George Clain

Chris Violette

Claire Duke

Debra Pierce

