

Town of Dorset Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes of:
January 3, 2017

Members Present: Brooks Addington (Chairperson), Gay Squire,
Carter Rawson, Kit Wallace, Scott Thompson

Members Absent: Adam Danaher, Charlie Wise, Brett Herrmann, Dick Coss

Also Present: Tyler Yandow (Zoning Administrator), Nancy Faesy (BCRC Rep), Michele Pagan, Lyndy Bowden

B. Addington, Chairman, opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Chair to Note Any Changes to Agenda:

There were no changes to the agenda.

Disclosure of Any Conflicts of Interest:

None noted.

Have Board Members Introduce Themselves.

Invite Other Attendees To Do The Same and State Why They Are Attending

The board and ZA introduced themselves.

Recording of Meeting

The meeting was not recorded by anyone present.

Approve Minutes of November 1, 2016 and December 6, 2016

- No minutes could be approved because there was not a quorum of members present at each meeting.

Report from the Zoning Administrator

T. Yandow reports as follows:

- Municipal Planning Grant application for crosswalk study was not approved. ZA will follow up with Town Manager and BCRC for alternate funding sources.
- Act 174, Municipal Regulation of Renewable Energy Projects. Jim Sullivan gave a presentation on this topic Dec. 15, 2016 which was taped by GNAT. The ZA provided the link to this video to the board in the printed packets. PC is waiting for Regional Commission to finish incorporating criteria into the Regional Plan before considering same for Dorset.
- CI District discussion. Waiting for maps from Jim Henderson.
- Community Energy Dashboard. Town Energy Committee studying how this tool can be used to promote energy conservation in Dorset.
- ZBA – Did not meet in December.

- Selectboard recent topics of interest: noise ordinance, purchase of radar signs, sign ordinance.
- 2 permits issued since last PC meeting.

Report from Representative to the BCRC

- See attached report from Nancy Faesy.

Report from the Design Review Board

- 108 Church Street sign application. There was not a quorum of members willing to vote on this application. It will be considered at the February meeting.
- Discussion followed regarding “AirBNB” and similar uses. B. Addington noted NYC prohibits rentals of less than 30 days in multi-unit buildings. It also prohibits advertising on AirBNB and VRBO. Benefits vs. down-sides of typical “on ground” real estate signs and post mounted signs were briefly discussed.

Bylaw Discussion: Formula Based Businesses; CI zones

- FBB: No proposed language was received from Charlie Wise and the topic was tabled until next month.
- CI zones: Waiting for maps from BCRC. Tabled until maps are available.

Other Business

- M. Pagan noted she was a Vermont native, had recently moved back to town, and had a background in preservation (of fabrics). She expressed interest in working with the PC and DRB on issues related to the Design/Historic district in Dorset.
- B. Addington asked board members to provide as much notice as possible if they anticipate not being able to attend a meeting. This helps to assure a quorum will be present to take action on all agenda items. Notice should be given to the Chair, Vice-Chair, and ZA.

Public Comments Taken

- None

Motion made by C. Rawson and seconded by G. Squire to adjourn. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyler W. Yandow A.I.A.
Zoning Administrator

Report to Planning Commission Meeting 1/3/17

No BCRC regular meeting since November (Report on Nov. meeting was sent-about BCRC Regional Energy Plan and Act 174 presentation by Jim Sullivan)

This presentation was repeated in Manchester on Dec. 1. Good visuals.

However-I attended a BCRC Training & Informational Session on Act 174—Energy Planning Standards—in Arlington on Dec 15th – 2 hours!

Tyler sent you all a link to Jim Sullivan's power point presentation today. You can also find it on the BCRC website.

Also, Andrew McKeever at GNAT is covering the Regional Energy Plan and Act 174 . He has done 2 segments on "The News Project" and will be continuing to cover it.

There will be another training session this month. I recommend it for the visuals!

As you all know, the Plan is to achieve the Goal of 90% of VT's energy from sustainable sources by 2050.

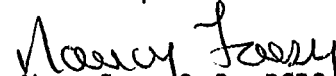
BCRC is still tweaking their plan and at their January meeting will ask for a vote to hold hearings. BCRC hopes to have approval by the end of March, then they can proceed with helping towns in their region with their plans.

Catherine Byers at BCRC is helping with the maps and base line data gathering. The Solar maps should be done by the end of this week.

Jim Sullivan will be sending a memo out this month to Bennington County towns asking if they would like to be among the 3 towns (large, medium and small) BCRC will assist in the first wave of developing their energy plans. There are funds available (\$20,000 to BCRC) for the towns to work on this. BCRC will decide which towns, based on "energy committees with capacity" and demonstrated interest by towns. I recommend we respond positively to this offer.

Transportation: The PC asked the DEC to work on transportation issues. We have a meeting next week, but we have put our thinking hats on. Some of our members went to the VECAN conference in early December and attended a very interesting workshop with good ideas and tested projects. The Weybridge Transportation Survey could be appropriate for Dorset in raising public awareness and providing baseline data for the energy plan. We also found a funding source for it. We also heard that VolksWagon is paying VT a fine of \$17 million to be used for public vehicles. We immediately told Jim Salsgiver in case he wanted to jump on it for new school buses!

The Dorset Energy Committee will continue to work with BCRC and other appropriate groups on Transportation issues for Dorset. Transportation does have the largest carbon footprint of all the sectors.


Nancy Faesy, Co-Rep BCRC

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