

BETHEL PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes: Meeting of 05/17/17

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Attending: Brad Andrews, Andrew Delaney (Chair), Fred Dieffenbach, Peter Dohrn, Carla Hodgdon, Jose Lazo (Chair, Energy Committee), Andy Stone, Cecil Washburn.

The Commission welcomed Brad Andrews and Andy Stone, both interested in serving on the Planning Commission.

1. **Call to Order:** 7:05 PM.
2. **Review / Revise Agenda:** Jose will be invited to share information from the Energy Committee when arrives.
3. **Correspondence:** ‘Municipal Summary Worksheet – Energy’ from TRORC delineating the type of data required in an ‘Enhanced Energy Plan’ [optional in Town Plans, however, if incorporated, receives substantial deference in renewable energy generation Certificate of Public Good process]. The summary includes target uses for 2025, 2035, and 2050 as well as some base-line data regarding current use. Maps identified levels of potential suitability for biomass, wind, solar, and hydroelectric.
4. **Minutes Meeting of 02/15/17:** Approved as distributed in *draft* 02/16/17. **Meeting of 04/19/17:** No meeting occurred even though Fred, Peter, and Andy Stone were present.

Jose Lazo, Energy Committee: The energy planning law [Act 174] seeks 90% renewable energy sources by 2050. The Energy Committee will present the Planning Commission with a draft of their vision for the next up-date of the Town Plan [to be adopted by September, 2019].

5. **Status- Unified Bylaw:** The *River Corridor* overlay was modified to either mimic the flood plain overlay or 50’ from top of stream-bank. Requests are being entertain regarding a 3000 square foot limit for retail space. It is not clear whether another Public Hearing will be needed should the retail space issue be incorporated.
6. **2019 Bethel Town Plan:**
 - (a) **grant application / components:** Andrew will check with TRORC regarding grant availability. Grant has –in the past- covered consultation, drafting changes for Commission review, costs of survey.
 - (b) **survey?** Consensus was that a survey should be done. Labels can be generated from the Town Clerk- landowners and registered voters. Andy Stone queried the feasibility/ possibility of an electronic option: we would need to know more about how this would or could be available. Commission will work on questions to include during the balance of this calendar year.
 - (c) **Needing more than updates: (1) energy:** Energy Committee will submit an expended component; **(2) healthy communities:** BRI may have pertinent information regarding this area.
7. **Other Business as Necessary:** None.
8. **Next Meeting / Agenda Items:** Wednesday, JUNE 21st – 7:00 PM at the Bethel Town Office.
9. **Adjourn:** 8:00 PM.

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