

BETHEL PLANNING COMMISSION (PC)
Minutes: Meeting of 06/21/17

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Attending: Brad Andrews (Guest), Chris Damiani (TRORC), Andrew Delaney (Chair), Fred Dieffenbach, Peter Dohrn, John Fago (Guest), Kevin Geiger (TRORC), Carla Hodgdon, Jose Lazo (Chair, Bethel Energy Committee), Andy Stone (Guest), Cecil Washburn.

1. **Call to Order.** 7:03 PM.
2. **Review / Revise Agenda.** Note: Members of the *Visioning Committee (Committee)* [Chris Jarvis, Bev Washburn, Kirk White] remained after their meeting that immediately preceded the Commission's to share information about the survey their group is considering and to discuss possibilities for collaboration. This was added to the agenda (#5) as the first item of business.
3. **Correspondence.** (a) 45-Day Advance Notice Package from Green Mountain Power regarding their intent to file a petition with the VT Public Service Board for approval to replace 0.22 miles of transmission line with larger wire – file; (b) Notice from TRORC regarding Public Hearings on proposed Regional Plan amendments. Hearings occurred in April: this is a second mailing as the original was not delivered to the PC – file.
4. **Minutes, Meeting of 05/17/17.** Approved as distributed in draft on 05/22/17.
5. **Community Development Grant.** Availability would benefit both the PC and *Committee*. All towns are eligible to apply in 2017, however, Bethel would be a lower priority than those towns whose plans are due to expire. Bethel would be more competitive in 2018, as the current Town Plan requires an update for 2019. The consensus was to not apply this year, although no vote was taken.

Committee members described components and methodology being considered for their survey. It was agreed that while this would be a dissimilar format and seeking different information, the two could benefit from collaboration. The *Committee* meets the same date as the PC [3rd Wednesday] and progress will be shared with one member of each group attending the meetings of the other. Brad Andrews offered to serve as PC liaison for this,.
6. **Presentation / Proposal: Enhanced Energy Plan.** TRORC representatives presented a review of the existing Bethel Town Plan with material pertinent to the 'enhanced energy components', which embrace the entire plan, not just the Energy Chapter. These components are optional for towns to incorporate, however, towns with them receive preference from the Public Service Board when solar or wind development requests are being considered. The group reviewed maps provided by TRORC delineating prioritized areas for both solar and wind installations. [Proposed additions to the Town Plan, maps, and other material utilized are included in the messages from Kevin being forwarded immediately following these minutes.] 'Bethel' needs to review the maps to fine-tune prioritization of identified areas from a local perspective: it was not clarified whether this would be the Energy Committee or PC.

- 7. Survey for 2018 Town Plan Update.** It was suggested that a 'new' question address whether to limit the size of retail space. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- 8. To Whom Should 'Clerk Stuff' Go?** There was marked aversion for fulfilling this position. It was (eventually) suggested that members share responsibilities on a 3-month rotation. Andy Stone agreed to cover Jul-Aug-Sept. Carla will provide a list of what she has been routinely doing. Membership Roster, Rules of Procedure, previous minutes, and miscellaneous other stuff were not addressed.
- 9. Other Business as Necessary.** It has been heard that Preston Bristow may be appointed as Interim Zoning Administrator while our new Town Manager acclimates to his position. If this is so, it was recommended that duties and expectations be clarified, as it seems this did not occur when he previously filled in, particularly in regard to the Listers.
- 10. Next Meeting / Agenda Items.** Next meeting will be Wednesday, July 19th [7:00 PM at the Bethel Town Office]. Agenda Item: Survey for 2019 Town Plan Update.
- 11. Adjourn.** 8:50 PM.