www.shaftsburyvt.gov

Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall

PO Box 409
61 Buck Hill Road
Shaftsbury, VT
05262-0409
(802) 442-4038

Meeting Agenda

Planning Commission

April 24, 2024
In person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom
As amended

1) Call to order

The meeting came to order at 6:02 p.m. Present were commissioners Nancy Burns (chair), Mike Foley, Zoe Contros Kearl, and Emily Cowperthwaite. Also present was zoning administrator Shelly Stiles.

2) Minutes, April 10

Mr. Foley moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Cowperthwaite seconded the motion. Ms. Contros Kearl noted that "Hall" in "Cole Hall" was misspelled. The corrected minutes passed unanimously.

3) Enhanced energy plan, equity and forestry sections, additional discussion re solar and wind

Ms. Burns said she researched and found that a common policy is that windmills should be no more than 30' taller than the nearest item 300' away. The commissioners agreed to limit windmills to 100' in height (rather than the 40' in the existing draft).

The group discussed the draft equity section provided by the Bennington County Regional Commission. Ms. Stiles reported discomfort with the number and somewhat onerous nature of some of the proposed objectives and policies, especially that regarding the Equity Toolkit.

Commissioners agreed that the new energy committee would be responsible for pursuing the goals. That will be made explicit in the text.

It was agreed the objectives would be tempered somewhat, with words such as "consider" "explore" and others added where appropriate.

Ms. Contros Kearl said Green Mountain Power will be providing storage batteries for customers below a certain income level in the very near future.

It was agreed to add energy resources to the website, to consider getting out flyers at Town Meeting, to look into an annual mailing about energy resources.

In the forestry section, Ms. Cowperthwaite moved to add language that "any forests removed by solar development shall be replaced by vegetation that provides pollinator habitat or soil-based carbon sequestration" and "forest blocks are not to be considered a possible constraint." Mr. Foley seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. Other changes agreed to at earlier meetings will also be made.

Ms. Contros Kearl moved that "The Enhanced Energy Plan is approved pending the zoning administrator making changes agreed to by the Planning Commission and the review thereof by the Planning Commission." Ms. Burns seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. The required hearing will be scheduled for May 22.

4) Other business

Mr. Foley mentioned two possible violations on North Road. Ms. Stiles will investigate.

The May 8 meeting will be cancelled.

Mr. Foley moved to adjourn at 7 p.m. Ms. Contros Kearl seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Notes by ZA Stiles