

June 2, 2022

PC Members Present: Zach Sullivan (Chair), Spencer Hardy, Richard Hall, Scott Hess, Kim Watson, Gianna Petito

Others Present: None

**Call to Order:** 7:03pm

**Changes to Agenda:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**CVRPC and State Energy Planning Work – Timelines and Plan Updates**

The Chair received some notes from Sam Lash regarding some state-wide regulations that need to be included in the Energy Plan. The CVRPC guidance should be available by the end of June. The target data and new maps will be available sometime in the fall of 2022. Ms. Watson noted that the State is changing the Current use rules to include old forest growth. The Chair shared a chart from the Northfield Town Plan that includes Energy Use Targets. He also shared a Renewable Energy Use chart that could be useful.

**Energy Plan Preferred and Restricted Sites for Renewable Energy Generation**

The PC could start by thinking about preferred and restricted sites. How much land in town is actually available for siting. The Chair would like to see how much land is available in the landfill and the industrial district. It might be better to look at rooftop solar panels first as no new acreage is needed. The town can encourage rooftop panels but don't have any ways to incentivize people. There is a difference between personal and commercial use. There was some discussion regarding the locations of three-phase power lines and their impact on siting recommendations. The PC discussed prioritizing the placement of any large scale solar project in the Industrial Zone. Calculations need to be done to determine how much land is available in the industrial zone and other preferred areas if the PC prohibits projects in forests or agriculture land, if that is the direction they decide to go. How much land is the Industrial Zone and how much is in Current Use. How much land is in the commercial Zone and how much is conserved or in wetlands. The PC talked about finding enough land in the preferred siting areas. There was discussion regarding large scale projects versus smaller rooftop systems. The Chair believes the town could meet the 2025 goal just with rooftop systems. Mr. Hardy suggested having someone from the utility companies come to talk with the board. If the PC comes up with enough preferred siting land, is it enough to make the landowner prove that they need to put a project on a non-preferred site. It is important that the PC come up with feasible preferred sites, as well. Mr. Hardy mentioned that, regarding sand pits, there are many species of birds and insects that live in those areas; that might need to be considered in the future. Consider putting in some language to preserve the ground under and near ground-mounted systems.

**To Do's**

- Preferred siting – have a cut-off of where we'd like to see projects
- How much land is in the Industrial and Commercial districts
  - Ask Sam Lash at CVRPC to provide maps of acreage
- Ask someone from WEC/GMP to come to a PC meeting

**Discuss Energy Plan Work Phasing**

The Chair asked if the PC wants to dive back into public input. The hope is to start with some of the drafting after the August break. Sam Lash should be able to provide much of the data regarding land in the current districts. Make sure to remove the Scenic Resources from the data.

**Updates**

- Capital Improvement Committee – no update, meeting postponed
- Energy Committee – no update
- Resilient Roads Committee – no update
- CVRPC Update – meeting next week

**ZA Report**

- 4 new permits

**DRB Report**

- No update

**Review Minutes**

May 19, 2022

**Motion: I move to approve the minutes as amended.** Made: Ms. Petito, second: Mr. Hardy

**Vote on Motion:** Passed

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**Other Business**

- The Selectboard will be interviewing the potential Zoning Administrator. The Chair suggested that the Town Administrator get the DRB involved because they work more with the Zoning Administrator.
- Middlesex and Barre are both making changes to their zoning and the Chair will send out the amendments next week.

**Motion to Adjourn.** Made: Mr. Hess, second: Ms. Watson. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:33p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Kristi Flynn, Recording Secretary*