

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
TOWN PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE
MAY 09, 2017
MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's Town Plan Review Committee was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 in the Conference Room of the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce, 33 Stewart Road, Berlin Vermont.

Committee Members Present:

Bill Arrand – Town of Worcester
Ron Krauth – Town of Middlesex
Julie Potter – Town of East Montpelier
Ivan Shadis – Town of Marshfield

Others Present:

Cedric Sandborn – Town of Barre
Debra Pierce – Town of Barre
George Clain – Town of Barre
John Hameline – Town of Barre
Byron Atwood – Town of Barre
Eric Vorwald, AICP – CVRPC Senior Planner

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Potter at 6:30pm. The meeting began with introductions of those present.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

It was recommended that the public hearing be moved to the first item on the agenda in order to accommodate the visitors from Barre Town and also to ensure a quorum would be present to open and subsequently close the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING & DISCUSSION ON THE BARRE TOWN PLAN AMENDMENTS

Mr. Krauth made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Arrand to open a public hearing on the amendments to the Barre Town Plan. The Committee voted unanimously to open the public hearing which occurred at 6:35pm.

No members of the public were in attendance at the public hearing. During this time, Ms. Potter asked the representatives from Barre Town if they had any comments they wanted to make. Mr. Sandborn discussed the process that Barre Town had gone through regarding the amendments and noted that changes to the energy section were the impetus for the amendments based on development pressures that the Town had seen in recent years. He stated that this process has been on-going with the Planning Commission and the intent was to amend the plan in order to receive due consideration before the Public Services Board. He also noted that this process began before Act 174 was finalized.

Mr. Sandborn also noted that due to the changes that were made to the energy section, changes to the transportation and preservation sections were also necessary for consistency among the plan. Mr. Hameline noted that the Town is not opposed to solar development but wanted to make sure that it was not in conflict with other goals of the Town.

With no other comments or members of the public present, Mr. Shadis made a motion to close the public hearing. This was seconded by Mr. Krauth. All were in favor of the motion and the public hearing was closed at 6:42pm.

After the public hearing was closed discussion with the representatives from Barre Town continued with Mr. Shadis inquiring if the Town sought model language from the Department of Public Service for their amendments. Mr. Sandborn indicated that they had not. Additionally, Mr. Arrand noted that the amendments were a good example of a municipality working to amend their plan to address issues related to energy. Mr. Clain noted that he would be interested in identifying a way to incorporate electric vehicle charging stations when new solar facilities are developed. Finally, Mr. Krauth noted that municipalities should be mindful of possible issues related to rooftop solar installations and safety issues that emergency service providers may face when responding to calls at these locations. He recommended that emergency service providers be consulted when these develops occur to identify any concerns that may exist from their perspective.

Following this discussion Mr. Shadis made a motion that the Town Plan Review Committee should recommend that the Commission regionally approve the amendments to the Barre Town Plan. This motion was seconded by Mr. Arrand. All were in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Potter noted that the minutes were from over a year ago and, since she was the only one at that meeting that was at this meeting, it would be appreciated that the minutes be approved in order to prevent the need for that item to be discussed in the future. Ms. Potter made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Mr. Arrand. All were in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public were present for comments.

ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business to discuss, Mr. Shadis made a motion to adjourn the meeting that was seconded by Mr. Arrand. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.