

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Municipal Plan Review Committee
Approved Minutes

September 8, 2020 at 4:30pm
Via GoToMeeting Software

Committee Members:

X	Bill Arrand, Worcester
X	Lee Cattaneo, Orange Commissioner
X	Ron Krauth, Middlesex Commissioner
X	Joyce Manchester, Moretown Alternate Commissioner
X	Jan Ohlsson, Calais Alternate Commissioner

Municipal Representative: Chris Violette, Barre Town Planning and Zoning Administrator
Public: George Clain, Barre Town Planning Commission; Mike Gilbar, Barre Town Planning Commission; Cedric Sanborn, Barre Town Planning Commission Chair; Byron Atwood, Barre Town Planning Commission
Staff: Zach Maia, Clare Rock

CALL TO ORDER

B. Arrand called the meeting to order at 4:36pm. Everyone introduced themselves.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

No changes to agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

PUBLIC HEARING: APPROVAL OF THE NORTHFIELD TOWN PLAN 2020-2028 AND CONFIRMATION OF THE LOCAL PLANNING PROCESS

Z. Maia provided overview of action to be taken, and administrative oversight in meeting notice requirements. Staff recommendation was to re-warn the municipal hearing for Monday September 21, 2020 at 5:00pm via GoToMeeting Software. Due to inadequate notice, no action was taken at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING: ISSUANCE OF A DETERMINATION OF ENERGY COMPLIANCE FOR NORTHFIELD TOWN PLAN 2020-2028

Due to inadequate notice, no action was taken at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING: ISSUANCE OF A DETERMINATION OF ENERGY COMPLIANCE FOR TOWN OF BARRE, VERMONT 2020 TOWN PLAN

This hearing was continued from the original August 27 Municipal Plan Review Committee meeting. At 4:43pm, Z. Maia provided staff recommendation that hearing was continued to 5:00pm in previous motion. C. Rock adds that in order to maintain Open Meeting Law and notice requirements, best practice will be to defer hearing until 5:00pm. B. Arrand agrees, and instructs participants to review Barre town correspondence emailed before the meeting.

B. Arrand continues hearing at 5:00pm. All participants are present.

B. Arrand begins discussion by highlighting letter to CVRPC from Barre Town. C. Sanborn says it is noteworthy that the plan went through 3 hearings with no public comments or input. Regional planning personnel only commented on missing map – no comments re: content of plan. C. Sanborn says nobody on MPRC said negative things about plan or asked to make changes. Barre Town Selectboard believes the map is not applicable, not that it is missing. The request map has been created by CVRPC.

C. Violette says that the map is not in the adopted plan. It doesn't make sense to insert the map; but to allow the plan to move forward, the map should be deemed not applicable. Barre Town requests that the plan receive an affirmative determination of energy compliance, and states that the map is not applicable because "(1) The map is not relevant considering that there is always more up to date and accurate data available on the Community Energy Dashboard. Within a few clicks, a Planner, Developer, or Regulator can see current data, not data on a map that could be up to 8 years old. (2) Unlike all other maps, the electric generation map does not set policy or have any regulatory implication at all. The map is a snapshot in time and outdated almost as soon as it is printed. (3) From a historical standpoint, the standards do not require a map to be included to show historical data. (4) If there is a concern for precedent, the precedent would only be for the existing renewable energy generation map, and then only if the same case is made which may very well happen. It will not set precedent for any other part of the plan or any other maps." (Quote from attached Barre Town letter)

B. Atwood discusses relevancy of map; the outdated map that is already irrelevant is the basis for not being applicable. B. Arrand asks if the dashboard is referenced in the map. B. Atwood says no.

J. Manchester asks if it would be possible to add the map, which is important as a snapshot of the Town in 2020, to existing plan and add a note that the map was not part of the plan. C. Violette says the because it is not an option, it isn't what we should decide upon tonight. Z. Maia clarifies that the addition of the map through a process other than adoption would not satisfy the requirement and that the decision tonight should reflect the Town's request for the map to be deemed not applicable. G. Clain says that the only resolve for this is that the map is not applicable. Z. Maia reminds Committee of the staff recommended motions, and reiterates need to get relevancy issue.

B. Arrand asks if PUC can rescind board decision. C. Rock adds that it will be a resolution from the Board, since RPC has authority to issue determinations. C. Violette questions point of RPC approval if PUC can overturn? J. Manchester adds that it may just be a recommendation from the RPC to the PUC. C. Rock clarifies that CVRPC board has a duty to notify PUC of decision-making.

G. Clain says that from his experience, it would be the petitioners making the argument, not the PUC. C. Rock agrees that that could be a situation when the plan is used. B. Arrand says that the decision may come down to PUC level and turn over Barre's plan.

J. Ohlsson moves to close the public hearing, seconded by L. Cattaneo. All in favor. Motion carries.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CVRPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

a. CONFIRMATION OF THE TOWN OF NORTHFIELD MUNICIPAL PLANNING PROCESS

b. APPROVAL OF THE TOWN OF NORTHFIELD TOWN PLAN 2020-2028.

c. ISSUANCE OF A DETERMINATION OF ENERGY COMPLIANCE FOR NORTHFIELD TOWN PLAN 2020-2028.

d. ISSUANCE OF A DETERMINATION OF ENERGY COMPLIANCE FOR TOWN OF BARRE, VERMONT 2020 TOWN PLAN.

The Committee did not open hearings on the Northfield Municipal Plan, and did not consider recommendations on items (a) – (c).

Regarding the issuance of a determination of energy compliance, R. Krauth asks what the point of the map is. J. Manchester answers that it is a snapshot in time. R. Krauth says that state-legislation determines what is on the map. J. Manchester disagrees and says that it shows solar on the ground. J. Ohlsson disagrees with J. Manchester and says that the map is outdated, also we have a right to question why it is there and recalls debate over map requirement. J. Manchester reiterates that document is meant to show where renewable energy is at that time.

Z. Maia clarifies the reasoning for choosing Not Applicable. L. Cattaneo says that if the town has the information on their website, then it is fine. J. Manchester asks if you can find historic information on the Community Energy Dashboard, and J. Ohlsson says yes, the historic information is available on the Community Energy Dashboard. J. Manchester says she will disagree.

L. Cattaneo says CVRPC's regional enhanced energy plan does not comply with latest guidance issued in January 2020, and encourages CVRPC to revise plan as soon as possible.

L. Cattaneo makes a motion that the adopted Town of Barre, Vermont 2020 Town Plan does not contain the required Existing Generation map, and the reason presented by the Town of Barre is compelling; therefore, an affirmative determination of energy compliance shall be recommended at this time for the Town of Barre, Vermont 2020 Town Plan. J. Ohlsson seconds. 4 in favor, 1 not in favor. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

L. Cattaneo moves to approve the minutes from August 27, 2020 meeting, J. Ohlsson seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.

ADJOURNMENT

L. Cattaneo moves to adjourn, R. Krauth seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.