

DRAFT

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES JANUARY 19, 2021

Present at meeting: Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Chair , Tom Wallace, Jeff Lunstead, Kevin Hanson, Robert Rooker, Bill Sayre, Lloyd Dike, Melissa Hernandez (joined at 8:20)

Kris Perlee, Zoning Administrator

Meeting (via Zoom) called to order at 7:05 PM.

Additions to Agenda:

None

Minutes:

Minutes for 12/15/2020 were approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

It is understood that Co-Chair Bill Brown has left the Commission to serve on the new Development Review Board. New Member Melissa Hernandez has been approved by the Select Board. There is one vacancy.

The terms of two members (Katie and Bill Sayre) expire in March 2021. The terms of Lloyd, Rob and Tom expire in March 2022, and the terms of Kevin and Jeff in March 2023.

Melissa's term will also expire in March 2022.

Katie said she cannot be Chair again when her term expires this March, so a new Chair will need to be found. Kris noted that new Chairs of town boards are elected in May.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Katie asked if everyone was receiving the Addison County Regional Planning Commission Newsletter, noting that it contains information about numerous grant opportunities.

PROPOSED GREEN PEAK SOLAR ARRAY PROJECT

Members discussed the proposed Green Peak solar array project that would be located off South Street. Kris informed members that Green Peak has submitted its 45 day notification to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). If the PUC issues a Certificate of Public Good, the project can proceed. Since Bristol does not have an approved Enhanced Energy Plan (EEP), the town (and the Planning Commission) are not able to weigh in with the PUC. If an EEP were in place, the town could talk about issues such as screening and siting. (Note: EEP is part of the revised Town Plan scheduled to be voted on in March as discussed below in New Business.)

NEW BUSINESS:

PROPOSED ZONING UPDATES

Katie noted that discussion of a number of proposed zoning updates in the new Unified Development Regulations had been postponed previously in order to complete work on the revised Town Plan. It was decided not to discuss these issues tonight. Kris would do a revised list of these proposed updates and circulate it by Feb 8 so they could be discussed at the next meeting on Feb 16.

PRIORITIZING PLANNING COMMISSION WORK

The PC needs to decide what its priority work for the next year will be. (This assumes voter approval of the revised Town Plan – see below.) Members should look at the Implementation section. This led into discussion of:

TOWN PLAN VOTE MARCH 2021

The revised Town Plan needs to be approved by voters at the Town Meeting in March. Kevin noted we do not know how the town will do Town Meeting this year (because of Covid-19) and how voting will be done. He said that we can do outreach to explain the plan but not to advocate for it.

There was then a discussion of how to inform voters about the Plan and voting. In addition to an official Warning, options are an ad in the Addison Independent, postings on Front Porch Forum and a flyer to be mailed.

Jeff asked if there was a plain language summary of the Plan that could be provided to voters, and it appears there is not. Jeff offered to write such a

summary that could be used in various ways.

Kris confirmed that the Plan is on the ballot as Article 5.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended at 8:47 pm.