

Town of Peru Planning Commission (PPC)
Approved Minutes for the Meeting of Wednesday, 8 August, 2018 - 7PM

Present:

Stewart Beattie, Chair
Mike Gayda
L.J. Petra
Paul Myers
Peter Robertson
Lucas Hughes
Hal Wilkins
Catherine Bryars, BCRC
Sheila Selden, Recording Secretary
Chuck Black, Selectboard
David Cooper, Attorney for JHapgood

Call to Order:

Stewart called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Approved minutes as written;

Approved by Paul Myers; seconded by Peter Robertson

Spelling changes to minutes.

Other changes:

Discussion; What is left to be done by JHapgood; town is requesting two markers in the front which were not done; last page top of page; Hal noted that receipt of a check determines date of filing for a permit; Stewart notes that all other elements of the permit filing need to be there as well as a check. Paul Myers; seconded by Hal Wilkins; unanimously accepted.

No Changes to the Agenda

Catherine Bryars from Bennington Regional Planning started the conversation on the Energy section. Data section has been what was worked on previously; this is the "how to" section. These are recommendations for the town of Peru. No one can make anyone comply but the town can recommend. These are recommendations:

1 - Establish a Municipal Energy Committee. First step to getting anything done. Appoint someone to head up the committee. If not enough people to establish a concerned committee the town could couple up with other towns. Alternative is to appoint an Energy Coordinator who is paid a stipend. This person would visit citizens individually or host workshops. Paul Myers noted

that some of these efforts were tried by the town in the past in conjunction with BBA. Events were highly publicized but there has been no measurable change. Paul Myers suggested that the PPC could get a booth and volunteers to educate the citizenry about ways to conserve energy. If this fails again, Paul suggests we partner with other towns. In conclusion, for now the PPC will determine a Municipal Energy Committee and volunteers for the Peru Fair. Catherine suggests that the Town Community Center have an energy Audit.

2 - Conservation Efficiency Use: Catherine and Mike Gayda discussed, prior to the meeting things that might be included in the plan for home owners to do to conserve energy such as buying energy efficient vehicles. Hal noted that Bromley Village has many small communities that are being encouraged through their owners' associations (12 - 14) to make home changes that conserve energy. Hal has spoken with all the commercial users concerning weatherization, especially Johnny Seesaw's (they have the original name back) and the Lodge at Bromley. Bromley is anxious to show what they have done and feel they are doing all that is possible.

3 - Local attitude about walking and biking: Discussion amongst the committee centered on the fact that there is not much shoulder on RT 11 or Hapgood Pond Road.

4 - Install electric vehicle charging stations at the town hall. Hal asked if the financial assistance for the Tesla and the other is still available. Discussion on possibilities. Catherine will report on available Funds.

5 - Town should do a trial of Biofuel for heavy duty trucks to see if there is any impact on costs. Lucas suggested that this be done only in the summer and only a small portion of the fuel be biofuel. Handed out information compiled so far to the committee.

Catherine will add her comments and suggestions to overall plans so far and get back to the committee.

The last portion of Catherine's presentation this evening centered on the map that was in here handouts. She stated that this map is for the committee only for working purposes. Solar maps will be used to show where solar development is optimal. Maps are done with best available data and were intended for planning purposes only. Environmental constraints have been layered on this map but are wiped off this map. So white areas mean there is a problem with development. Yellow areas can be developed with some constraints. Red areas are optimal areas for development. On the wind map the green areas are secondary wind resource; purple-pink areas are prime areas. These maps are complex and in flux. They show potential only. As a planning commission these maps should help to make reasonable conclusions. Community Energy Dashboard has an interactive map with all layers provided as interactive. This was in response to

Lucas Hughes asking for more information on how these maps are determined. Catherine will send technical info on this to Lucas and Paul Meyer. Objective of this map is to determine local constraints. Class one = never going to happen. Class two = possible but not optimal. Identify preferred sites for energy development and why. Mark preferred sites. Example: Sunderland marked all their commercial/industrial areas a preferred sites. Dorset sent out a letter to citizens after doing the work of determining who might be open to doing this work, asking for volunteers. Towns can do anything but they need to be specific in their plans. 150 or larger indicates a larger project. Catherine handed out info on preferred site guidance for all members of PPC to read and understand. Peru should identify at least 30 acres of preferred sites to meet the renewable resources suggested by the BCRC. This would provide a higher financial incentive for solar panels. Spend time figuring out what preferred sites consist of, and where, as part of a strategic plan. What types of local constraints exist and why? Tie these things back to the town plan (Community resources, parks, national forests, lands belonging to fish and wildlife, etc.).

Vermont Planner's Association Discussion

Permit Application Database Updated

Discussion of South Road Residential