

**TOWN OF CASTLETON  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 6:30pm  
Castleton Town Hall  
263 VT – 30  
Bomoseen, VT 05732**

**PRESENT:** Janet Currie, Chair; Joe Bruno, Vice Chair; Robert Franzoni, Planning Commission member; Val Waldron, Planning Commission member; Jonas Rosenthal, Zoning Administrator; Eliza LeBrun, Recording Secretary/Planning Commission alternate; Barbara Noyes-Pulling, Rutland Regional Planning Commission.

**ABSENT:** Jon Pintello, Planning Commission member

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Ms. Currie called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Mr. Bruno made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Waldron seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: 2/11/20**

**Mr. Bruno made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2020 Planning Commission meeting. Mrs. Waldron seconded the motion.**

Mrs. Waldron noted that her name was misspelled in the minutes of February 11, 2020.

The spelling of “Fiske” was clarified as well.

**All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**DISCUSSION**

Prior to the arrival of Mrs. Noyes Pulling, the Planning Commission briefly discussed the Enhanced Energy Plans from Rutland, Brandon, Pawlet and Sudbury. Items from each were of the 3 policies were identified as possible inclusions into the Castleton Enhanced Energy Plan.

Mrs. Waldron and Ms. Currie liked Brandon’s Enhanced Energy Plan. Mr. Franzoni liked aspects of Rutland’s Enhanced Energy Plan. Language was identified that the Commission would like to include

*The Castleton Planning Commission is seeking public input to discuss Solar Facilities siting criteria for consideration. The Planning Commission is drafting an Enhanced Energy Plan because of the because of the important economic and environmental benefits to be gained by reducing overall energy consumption and minimizing the use of fossil fuels. The Commission is researching the following: siting criteria and how this will implement the State’s Comprehensive Energy Plan.*

Ms. Currie introduced Barbara Noyes-Pulling of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. Ms. Currie explained the Planning Commission is working to create an Enhanced Energy Plan.

Ms. Noyes-Pulling provided the Commission a document that included the 14-page checklist. Now that the Select Board has approved the agreement between RRPC and the Town of Castleton, Ms. Noyes-Pulling will put together a draft EEP for the Commission using the checklist and the LEAP model provided by the State. The LEAP model for Vermont states that Towns will be 90% renewable energy by 2050.

Ms. Noyes-Pulling explained that she will take all the data and start by providing maps of solar, wind, hydro and biomass for the Town. Final maps of where you do and do not want renewable energy will not be included in the final draft. Then there will be a list of things that address conserving energy, going to renewables and some land use.

Ms. Currie noted that the solar credits generated from the Solar Arrays in Town are not staying in Town, they are going out of Town. The Town does not benefit from this.

Ms. Noyes-Pulling explained that the State of Vermont states that if there is energy created in Vermont, we can take credit for it.

Ms. Currie pointed out again that the VT residents are not seeing or understanding the benefits.

Ms. Noyes-Pulling explained that the Enhanced Energy Plan lets you plan where development will go. By doing this, a Town will get the enhanced position (substantial deference) before the Public Utility Position. Substantial deference allows the Town to have a say in projects that the Town may not otherwise have a say in. There is one caveat, a Town cannot ask something of a renewable energy developer that they would not ask a building developer. Specifically, screening was discussed as an issue.

Mr. Bruno recommends requiring all Solar projects to have conditional use permits and a site visit.

Ms. Noyes-Pulling will create a draft enhanced energy plan, she will bring back 2/3's of the plan so that the Commission and Ms. Noyes-Pulling can work on the rest together.

Mrs. Waldron asked if there is a way to limit the number of kilowatts allowed per year to limit the amount of land being used? Ms. Noyes-Pulling felt that this was an interesting question, perhaps putting a timetable on developing out 80 acres.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The next Planning Commission meeting will be March 10, 2020 at 6pm with Green Mountain Power. Ms. Noyes-Pulling will plan to attend as well.

#### **ADJOURN**

**Mr. Franzoni made a motion to adjourn the Planning Commission meeting at 7:53pm. Mr. Bruno seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted; Eliza LeBrun, Recording Secretary