

RUTLAND TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016
7:00 P.M.
RUTLAND TOWN MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Present: Ms. Barbara Pulling, Mr. Dana Peterson, Mr. Andrew McKane, Mr. Jerry Stearns, Mr. Alan Biederman, Mr. Howard Burgess, Mr. Norman Cohen.

- Meeting called to order by Ms. Pulling at 7:00 P.M.
- Mr. Peterson cited in the October 27, 2016 minutes there was an item to review called the “Entinger Lot 2 Proposal” that had been tabled. Ms. Pulling stated she checked with Town Administrator Mr. Joe Zingale, Jr. and it is not a subdivision so the Planning Commission cannot take action.
- Mr. Peterson requested adding to the agenda a final review of the proposed Town Plan.
- The Commission reviewed the minutes from October 27, 2016. Mr. Cohen moved to approve. Mr. Peterson made a second to the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Cohen moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Stearns made a second to the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment/Questions:

There were none.

New Business: Rutland Town Renewable Energy Plan:

- Ms. Pulling informed the Commission the Rutland Town Select Board has agreed for the Town to be a pilot town for the State of Vermont’s Municipal Renewable Energy Plan and the first training session will be Monday, December 12, 2016 at 5:30 P.M. at the Rutland Regional Planning Commission’s (RRPC) offices on Merchants Row in Rutland City. Ms. Pulling presented the Commission the abridged standards for a Town Energy Plan and offered to deliver a brief presentation at the Commission’s next meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.
- Mr. Biederman stated he has read the regulations and believes that any Town who spends money or effort on this project is wasting their time as the theoretical benefit of deference the

State is offering isn't the kind of deference that would stand up in a court of law and cited examples. Mr. Biederman said the message to the Towns is that it is hopeless because with so little money from the State towns will not be able to hire the experts required to complete the plan.

- Mr. Biederman questioned the ability of non-experts to be able to implement the plan. Ms. Pulling said the State is giving the RRPC mapping files on specific areas to help them with their ambitious goals and the data indicates there is more than enough land to meet the goals.
- Mr. Cohen said he thought being a pilot town may be beneficial as it will give the Town a chance to be on the ground floor and get a working knowledge of the process.
- Mr. Burgess stated that all of the work the Commission has done on solar sighting standards may have been a waste of time as the Town doesn't own enough property.
- Ms. Pulling said there is a question whether the Town has already done enough alternative energy and explained the process of it starting regionally and then locally.
- Mr. Stearns pointed out that it doesn't matter if the Town goes through the process as a pilot town as the State will force the Town to participate. Mr. Biederman said it doesn't matter if the Town created their own Municipal Renewable Energy Plan because whatever standards the State or the RRPC set the Town will have to accommodate and conform to.
- Ms. Puling asked the Commission if there is a consensus of not going forward as a pilot town.
- Mr. McKane cited the variables of the plan and wants the Commission to be able to send the RRPC and the State feedback on how the Town wants it done. Mr. McKane said he would like to have a Town wide vote on the subject of wind power.
- Ms. Pulling stated the plan is renewed and updated every five years to take new technology into account.
- Mr. Peterson said that if the Town participated as a pilot town The Commission would be more informed about the State's expectations, possibilities and alternatives.
- Mr. Burgess pointed out that a lot of the land in the Town is designated as "Current Use", solar projects can't be placed on that land and there are strict penalties for taking land out of "Current Use".
- Upon further discussion Mr. Peterson moved to accept the recommendation of the Rutland Town Select Board to the Planning Commission to participate in creating a Municipal Renewable

Energy Plan. Mr. McKane made a second to the motion. Motion passed 4-3. Mr. Stearns, Mr. Burgess and Mr. Biederman voting in the negative.

Public Hearing November 15, 2016:

- Ms. Pulling updated the Commission of the Public Hearing on the adoption of the Town Plan and of the next Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 29, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.

Old Business: Final Review of proposed Town Plan:

- The Commission reviewed the proposed Town Plan.
- Ms. Pulling cited minor changes the Select Board made on pages 56 and 57 in which they removed a pond that wasn't in the Town and the in the Water Resource Strategies language was added "this section shall not apply to ponds smaller than two acres".
- Ms. Pulling and Mr. Peterson cited changes on pages 5,6,8 and 9 regarding language that "the City of Rutland provides water and sewer services to Town businesses and residents of the Town to benefit both communities", as well as the addition of language from Board Member Ms. Mary Ashcroft to provide clarity to Clustered Development and Working Lands.
- Mr. Biederman moved to adjourn. Mr. McKane made a second to the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

