



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461
802.482.2281 | hinesburg.org

Meeting Minutes - May 31, 2016

- Approved 6/14/16 -

Members Present: Bob Hyams, Shannon Kelly, Alison Lesure, Bill Marks, Merrily Lovell

Members Absent: Meg Handler

Guests: None.

1. Call to Order **7:10 PM**

2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda **7:10 PM**

Frog bit sign up brought up by Bob, for us to sign up to weed Frog Bit out of Town Farm Bay on Lake Champlain (Ferrisburg) in July

3. Approve Minutes from 5/10 **7:05 PM**

4. Town Plan **7:20 PM**

Bob suggested perhaps we should pare it down a bit. It seems it was approved. Bob will check with Alex to see if we have completed what we needed to do, and give us an update.

5. Solar Arrays, Proposals **7:30 PM**

From Bil-sent to the Planning Commission: I-Ensure that zoning supports sites for large Group Net Metering that don't have adverse effects on land or its rural character.

Goal 8.8, Energy Siting of commercial solar panels: I think it's a big mistake to limit the town's advisory role to the same high threshold that the State has settled on (in its *great compromising* wisdom). Specifically, the minimum threshold of *greater than 150kw*, which triggers oversight by the State, is much too high to effectively control the inappropriate siting of large solar arrays. For example, the commercial array proposed by Suncommon to the south of my property, in its initial configuration, was eight rows deep with rows of approx. 120 feet in length. This is huge. Furthermore, the electricity produced will neither benefit the property owner, Hinesburg in general, or even the State. The energy credits will all be sold out of state. I would propose either a *much lower* threshold to trigger a PC advisory role (perhaps something greater than what is generally needed to power a single family home), or a standard based on

how the power will be used. For example, will most of the power generated go to on-site (eg, a large dairy farm) or local power needs, or are the solar credits being sold out of state?

- Bill Marks, Hinesburg CC

The Planning Commission is meeting tomorrow night to look at this as part of their review of the Town Plan.

Merrily will call Chuck tomorrow to get an update from the Energy Committee. She will invite Chuck Reiss, chair of the Energy Committee, to our next meeting to discuss what they are doing and thinking about solar arrays.

6. Geprags

7:45 PM

VGS pipeline-Bob suggested we come up with a written statement delineating how the process has gone, and has not gone, and where we stand right now.

Bob agreed to write up a statement of our position and concerns related to the VGS proposal and the process with the Selectboard in creating a new agreement.

Merrily agreed to present it to the Selectboard at the June 9 meeting and Bill agreed to be there to answer questions.

Trail mowing – Plan for mowing (Alison to update on coordination w/Trails Committee)

Bob and Shannon will do what they can, as volunteers, on Trails Day.

- a. Upper (second) bench repair – will do at a later meeting

7. Updates & Reminders: National Trails Day Saturday June 4th!

8:55 PM

Shannon, Bob, Merrily and Alison will meet at the Town Hall at 9 am on Saturday.

Bob will bring his mower.

Act 64 presentation & discussion hosted by RGH debrief-tabled for next time

Alison invited the Commissioners over to her house for a barbeque on Friday, June 17.

Spouses, children, and others are invited.

8. Nature Notes

9:00 PM

9. Adjourn

9:10 PM