



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461
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Meeting Minutes - June 14, 2016

-Draft-

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

Members Absent: none

Guests: Chuck Reiss, Chair of Energy Commission

1. Call to order 7:10 PM
2. Additions/Deletions to agenda 7:10 PM
3. Solar siting, solar arrays – Visit with Chuck Reiss, Energy Commission 7:10 PM

Chuck read to us the statement that the energy commission submitted to the Planning Commission. This statement had to do mostly with screening. Since then more issues have come up having to do with siting. State legislation is currently in process. It has gone through the Senate, then got changed in the House. There were issues about sound. There was an effort to educate municipalities about siting, but no funding, so the Governor vetoed the bill. But now it got improved with details about sound and funding for educating municipalities about siting, and it did get passed.

Large scale energy projects are defined as anything over 150 Kilowatts, and they have restrictions. Projects below 150K do not. The Planning Commission and Energy Commission agree that any system less than 150 K will not have restrictions.

Chuck explained to us the details of the current legislation and what the Energy Commission is working on, as well as their work on the Town Plan.

We discussed ideas around having levels of regulation below 150 K, if the production of energy was not for on-site use.

Are there areas of the town that are recommended for these sites?

Alex W. has started a list of preferred sites for renewable energy sites. Chuck said the Energy Committee would like to carry this work further.

The Energy Committee has been working on Section 8 of the Town Plan.

4. Approve Minutes from 5/31 8:15 PM
5. Geprags 8:15 PM
- a. Trail day debrief and other trail maintenance updates or items:
Woods trails have been cleared. Stakes from Story Walk were picked up. Bob mowed many of the trails, but did not get to all of them. Bob and Bill will try to finish the mowing on Thursday. Alison will go with her husband and a chainsaw to see if there is anything still to cut on the northwest trail.
 - b. Upper (second) bench repair – Decide on next steps: Members of the CC will think about whether we can do it without hiring anybody else.
 - c. VGS pipeline 8:30 PM
We discussed the last Selectboard meeting and how to move forward at the present time.
6. Updates & Reminders: Review summer meeting dates, other meeting commitments 9:15 PM
Next meeting will be June 28, then on July 12

Alison needs to step back from being the chairperson, we will talk about this on the July 12 meeting
7. Nature Notes 9:30 PM
8. Adjourn 9:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Merrily Lovell