

WEST WINDSOR PLANNING COMMISSION

Draft Minutes
December 16, 2009

Present: Barbara Truex, Glenn Seward, Hal Pyke, Win Johnson, Martha Harrison

1. Call to Order – Chair Hal Pyke called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.
2. Changes or Additions – None
3. Work with Energy Committee on Energy chapter of Town Plan – Hal mentioned that the Energy Committee (EC) discussed 32 V.S.A. §3845 at their meeting on Monday night. Win said the provisions of this statute are already in the current Town Plan. Glenn said he thinks tax exemptions for alternate energy sources are a good idea and the Planning Commission should try to get it on the warning for the 2010 Town Meeting. Win said the Energy Committee is going to use other town plans to draft the Energy chapter and will try to get it to the PC in early January. Win said energy audits are one of the action items the energy committee will propose. Win noted that the energy committee submitted a grant proposal for a new furnace for the Town Hall. Win said the EC would like to have a shelf of energy-related videos at the library for people to check out. Win mentioned Paul Biebel's solar installation and noted that some people have objected to it. Win said there should be consistency throughout the plan with regards to energy issues. Barbara said the aesthetics of energy installations have been a topic of discussion. Win said he understands that people have very different feelings about these things. Win said people who want Vermont Yankee decommissioned have to accept some local "in my backyard" responsibility. Win said he thinks it's okay if aesthetics are a consideration as long as other criteria associated with alternative energy are also considered. Barbara said she thinks the energy audit is a big piece and she thinks education about energy is important also. Win agreed but said it is difficult to disseminate information in West Windsor. Win said the energy committee is also looking into a free energy curriculum for Albert Bridge School. Win said they would like to put some education videos at the library and hold some "Button-up Vermont" workshops. Barbara said she thinks the Town Plan should include some information on energy resources. Hal talked about the need to get help with West Windsor's website. Martha said Cathy Boedtker has offered to help. Win said two members of the EC have a conflict of interest because he has an alternative energy installation and Ted is an installer so it would help to have the PC, the Listers, and other town officials get behind this. Win said he thinks groundwater deserves special attention in the Natural Resources chapter because it is where everyone in town gets their drinking water. Barbara said the PC has discussed the conflict between agriculture and water quality. Hal said the PC will be looking at the Natural Resources chapter again and can address Win's concerns about groundwater.
4. Review draft of Economic Development chapter of Town Plan – The PC reviewed chapter 11 and made a few minor changes. The PC talked about reviewing the standards for home businesses and home occupations periodically, as needed. Glenn suggested asking Tom Kennedy for groundwater language.
5. Minutes: November 16, 2009; December 2, 2009 – **Barbara made a motion to approve, as written, the minutes of November 16, 2009 and December 2, 2009. Glenn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
6. Other Business – Barbara said she thinks there are significant aesthetic and noise issues associated with alternative energy structures. The PC talked about state statutes that exempt alternative energy structures from local zoning regulations.
7. Adjourn – **The Planning Commission adjourned by consensus at 8:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison