

WEST WINDSOR PLANNING COMMISSION

Draft Minutes
September 2, 2009

Present: Hal Pyke, Joe D'Anna, Glenn Seward, Barbara Truex, Mark Isenberg, David Jaacks, Win Johnson, Ted Emerson, Ted Siegler, Martha Harrison, April Harkness, Sue Greenall, Erik Schutz

1. Call to Order - Chair Hal Pyke called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.
2. Energy Coordinator/Energy Committee discussion: David Jaacks asked about the amount of time associated with the Coordinator position. Hal said there is no specific time requirement. Hal said West Windsor has not had an Energy Coordinator before. Mark said there are experienced coordinators in nearby towns. Hal said the Planning Commission, at their last meeting, agreed that it would be better to have an Energy Committee than an Energy Coordinator, if the Selectboard agrees. Win agreed that a committee would be preferable. Hal mentioned that the PC recently received a copy of an application for a pole-mounted solar array in West Windsor. Win said he has solar panels on his barn. There was brief discussion about solar installations, how net metering works, and funding sources/tax credits. Mark said that having an Energy Committee could help position West Windsor to receive stimulus funding. Win asked if the PC is going to establish energy criteria for new construction. Hal said the PC has not finished the Housing chapter of the Town Plan yet so there is an opportunity for input on the energy aspects of housing. Win asked if the town is going to provide incentives for people to conserve energy. Hal said there is no money budgeted for incentives currently, but they could ask the Selectboard to budget some money for incentives next year. Win said there are also disincentives for investing in alternative energy if the property's appraised value is going to increase as a result. Hal said, as a Lister, he thinks the appraised value probably would increase. David said it's a double standard to raise taxes on the people who are making an effort to reduce the town's demand for energy. David asked if the town has a plan to reduce it's overall energy consumption by a certain percentage and, if so, how would the town promote that plan. David asked how you can say that one energy system is more valuable than another if it's using less power. Barbara said she thinks there will be other issues as well including, possibly, the blight on the visual environment. Barbara asked if there should be some guidelines for alternative energy installations. Hal said the Energy Committee might get involved in the political aspects of these issues. Glenn said he thinks it would be helpful if the Energy Committee could make the public aware of alternative energy resources. Glenn said he thinks there should be the pursuit of some incentives on a town-wide basis as well. Martha said there was some recent legislation that allows towns to opt-in to an incentive program. Win asked if Julia Lloyd Wright, Weathersfield's Energy Coordinator, is coming tonight. Martha said Julia is one of the possible speakers at the Energy Forum, which will be held sometime in the winter. Hal said Hartland's Energy Committee is a potential resource as well. Hal said West Windsor's Energy Committee would work with the Planning Commission on the Energy chapter of the Town Plan, but the PC does not intend to direct the efforts of the Energy Committee.
3. Adjourn – **Barbara made a motion to adjourn at approximately 7:13 PM. Glenn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison