

**Town of Pawlet Planning Commission
Pawlet Town Hall
Pawlet, VT**

**Minutes of Meeting
For Monday, June 24, 2019**

Members Attending:

Harry Van Meter, Chairman
Eric Mach, Vice Chairman
Rik Sassa, Secretary/Clerk
Mark Frost
Wayne Clarke
Gary Beierlain
Melissa LaCount
Tom Collard

Members Absent:

Gary Beierlain
Melissa LaCount

Others in Attendance:

Monica Przyperhart
Joy Proft
Frank Nelson
D. Morrisseau
Allen Turner
Valerie Davis
Paul Tillander
Michelle Tillander
Bob Schoenemann
Martha Schoenemann
Joshua Goschel
Nancy Morlino
Robert Morlino
Liz Dodge
Janine Seitz
Doloris Luebke
Hal Wilkins, Zoning Administrator

From

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Chairman, Harry Van Meter called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Item 1: Call to Order

Harry announced that Wayne Clark was going to be leaving the commission as a regular member and would take the new position as alternate member of the Commission. Tom Collard will replace him on the Commission as regular member. Harry also welcomed Jason Day to talk about small scale wind turbines.

Item 2: Approval of Meeting Agenda

Rik Sassa made a motion to approve the agenda with no exceptions, the motion was seconded by Tom Collard and unanimously approved.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes of May 20, 2019 Meeting

Rik Sassa moved that the minutes be approved with no exceptions, Mark Frost seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote of the commissioners.

Item 4: Special Presentations

Jason Day spoke about small wind turbines (less than 100kw per system and under 150 feet tall). The smaller scale turbines are less visible and quieter. Also they make more energy in low wind. The towers are short enough that they are hydraulically lifted up and down to install and service. These turbines spin slower than the high rpm version. The higher the spin speed the more noise created. Vermont energy programs facilitate the installation of clean energy. Reasons for small wind turbines are: diversifying energy portfolio, wind is 24/7, Vermont has 40% cloud cover, you can still farm, graze and have an orchard under a wind turbine. If the system is going through the grid then it has to go through the PUC (Public Utility Commission). If you are only using turbines to charge batteries, then you would go through Act 250 for permit (both are only for commercial systems). The best locations for a wind system are either on a large open agricultural spot or next to a large body of water or on a ridge line.

Item 5: Public Comments

Frank Nelson commented on a community solar project on single phase rather than three phase. He also provided a handout regarding open meetings based on a 2014 state law. Basically the law requires that agenda and public notification must be made. Harry mentioned that the planning commission is going to have a mock-up meeting and work session with Monica Przyperhart and her community values mapping project. Harry asked the group present what their thoughts were based on the wind turbine presentation, considering that the town had previously deemed there were no acceptable sites. This decision was based upon the larger sized wind turbines. Robin Chestnut-Tangerman commented that Jason's experience was based out of state. Harry said that the state mandates that the town reach certain levels of alternative energy by 2050. Robin said that geothermal has not been mentioned since it is not considered an energy generation source for any other than residential applications. He also added that Jason's small wind turbine at his factory in Manchester's is extremely inconspicuous. Martha Schonemann wondered if the town would get involved as an entity in power generation. Harry said the town would not be involved. Martha concluded that she would not be able to put up a wind turbine if the town has determined that wind was not feasible. Harry said that yes that was how things currently stood. Harry asked whether the town wants to stay with the current designation. Robin said that standard offer and net meter were very different programs with different intents. The standard offer is a long term plan for bigger businesses, where the net metering is more for individuals. Tom asked Robin what the state was trying to achieve by the 90% renewable energy by 2050. Robin's recollection of the bill is that all the towns are in and showing that they have plans in place or sites located for various energy generation.

Item 6: Zoning Administrator's Report

Hal Wilkins read from his report. There is an issue with a boundary line adjustment in West Pawlet. There was a DRB public hearing, with a new attorney, Merrill Bent, representing the Town, on the Slate Ridge property. The application was completed and a decision will be rendered soon. The West Pawlet hemp project was approved by Act 250. Merrill Bent, also assisting the town, reviewed the bylaws and thought there were very few alterations needed. Stone Valley Slate Association came up with some good responses to the Act 250 issues. Deni Morrieseau was wondering what was going on with the quarry hole that is being filled in on rt 153 near the center of West Pawlet. Harry suggested that Deni take his complaint to the selectboard meeting. Dolores Luebke asked if Merrill Bent is the new town attorney. Hal said no, John has not been able to perform his duties so Merrill was retained. She also thanked Hal for his continued perseverance on the Slate Ridge issue.

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Item 7. New Business

Mock up meeting scheduled for Monday July 1st with Monica Przyperhart from VT Fish and Wildlife. She will bring maps.

Item 8. Adjournment

Rik moved to adjourn the meeting, Mark seconded, meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

Item 9: Next Meeting Date and Agenda

The next regular meeting of the Pawlet Planning Commission will be held on July 22nd, 2019 at 7:30 pm at the Pawlet Town Hall.

The agenda for the next meeting will generally follow the usual format with noted additional speakers:

- 1) Additions to/deletions/approval of the agenda; 2) Approval of minutes of previous meeting; 3) Public comments; 4) Zoning Administrator's report; 5) Topic for discussion by the Commissioners or presenter; 6) New business; 7) Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted: Rik Sassa, secretary