

**Town of New Haven Selectboard
Public Hearing on Town Plan
7:00 pm
Tuesday, 25, 2016
Town Hall**

Present: Chair, Kathy Barrett, Vice Chair, Steve Dupoise, John Roleau, Jim Walsh and Clerk Pam Kingman

Absent: Doug Tolles

Visitors: Dan Monger, Dean Gilmore, Bridget Kipp, Bev Landon, Robert Rodgers, Craig Zondag, Tamara Boise, Joey Boise, Maura Lester, Sam Lester, Francie Caccavo, Gaen Murphree, Peter Bolduc, Tim Bouton and Harvey Smith

Kathy Barrett opened the meeting at 7:00 pm, she explained that this hearing is to present the same Town Plan the Planning Commission presented at their public hearing in June, 2016. Two handouts were provided: A Statutory Analysis of the Town Plan as presented from the Planning Commission and a copy of the draft Town Plan from June 2016.

Areas that need Strengthening within the Town Plan:

- Objectives
- Policies
- Maps
- Village Designation – more descriptive language, once in place the town can reapply for Village designation and can receive grants for upgrades to municipal buildings.
- Roads and Trails – trails are delineated on the map, and we need to add VAST trails, Rail Roads
- Scenic View Sheds need to be identified
- Utility lines and cell towers should be noted
- VT Gas line and location of the gate station should be noted
- Language in there about some irreplaceable areas
- Energy Usage – this has never been included

Kathy Barrett - this is an opportunity to strengthen our Town Plan, it used to be a visionary document, but now with the all the new solar arrays; the Public Service Board says Town Plans need to be more definitive. Instead of saying “should”, items should now read “must”, so that it is clearly delineated within the Plan.

We currently do not have a Town Plan.

Francie Caccavo – She is a member of the Planning Commission. They have been working hard on the Town Plan for over 2 years. The first initiative was solar, they added some solar language to the Plan, submitted it to the Selectboard, and the Selectboard sent it back to have them look at other areas. They added more solar language, submitted it again, and again the Selectboard sent it back, stating it needed more public input. The PC held a public workshop that was well attended. The PC has been working with the Selectboard on moving the document forward. The PC held their public hearing in June, and now it is the Selectboards turn.

Jim Walsh – S260 changed everything in the way of solar regulation. Within S260 there are 12 pages of requirements for towns to have in their Town Plans. This data needs to be included in our Town Plan, because it then goes to Regional Planning, who then forwards it to the Dept. of Public Service; we then hope for approval. The Dept. of Public Service is looking for “substantial deference”. Can the Dept. of Public Service reject the whole plan or just a section of it? The Public Service board is constantly changing the rules; it is hard to keep up.

Dan Monger – The Planning commission was aware of S260; “substantial deference” spelled out means they are backing green renewable energy aggressively. ACT 56 has already gone through, and that only gave us solar “siting”, which was a waste of time.

Kathy Barrett opened the meeting up for comments and questions:

Bev Landon – Sounds like it is better to have too much in the Plan, than not enough.

Kathy Barrett – Town Attorney, Cindy Hill has put in a tremendous amount of work and time.

Robert Rodgers – Will Cindy Hill include the Analysis items in the new Plan

Kathy Barrett – Yes. The Selectboard will be having a work session on Saturday, October 29, 2016 @ 1:00 pm in the Town Offices with Town Attorney, Cindy Hill. The public is invited to attend.

Francie Caccavo – Concerning Scenic View sheds, will it be defined where they are and identify them? The PC has spoken to a Landscape Architect, and to have them identify them was very costly.

Jim Walsh – There is a lot of paperwork. Much of the identifying view sheds have been identified by Jerry Smiley and Rod Case.

Kathy Barrett – There have also been extensive studies done by Kate Lampton and The Green Belt Alliance.

Harvey Smith – He is a Town Representative to Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC), he said ACRPC would like to see the town adopt changes throughout the year, instead of waiting the 5 years.

Kathy Barrett – ACRPC looked over the solar piece that our PC added, ACRPC felt there was not enough current data – which is hard because the rules keep changing. We can't make incremental changes through the year.

She said echoed what Francie said, the PC and Selectboard are working together to bring this document forward. Once it is ready it will be on the Town's website.

The Selectboard is hoping to have it ready for a Town Meeting vote.

Francie Caccavo – If the PC knew what it knows now, it would have made a difference in the way the PC amended the Plan

Bridget Kipp – On page 35 of Town Plan – “Lower Density in Highway Commercial” Will this change? She also asked if the survey the PC took a while back be incorporated into the new Plan.

Steve Dupoise – No, he does not think the Route 7 corridor will change.

Kathy Barrett – Yes, the survey will be included in an Appendix in the new draft.

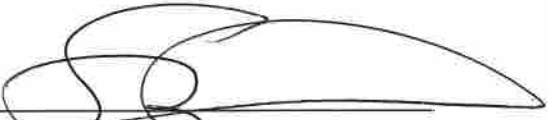
Steve Dupoise announced that he had a phone call just prior to the meeting from Richard Saudek. Richard told him that Vermont Green Line (Anbaric project) did not win the bid to run the power to the southern New England States. So for now the project is on hold. Joe Rossignoli from National Grid did say they will continue to look for someone to purchase the power, and VGL will continue to pursue the Certificate of Public Good from the Public Service Board.

Adjourned: 7:40 pm
Respectfully submitted:
Pam Kingman

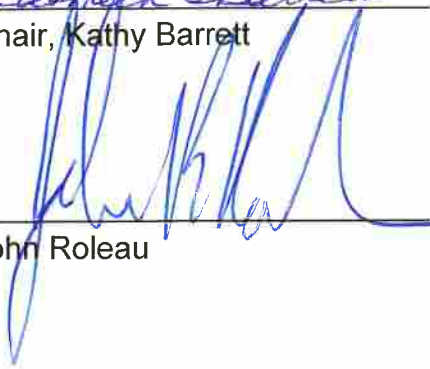
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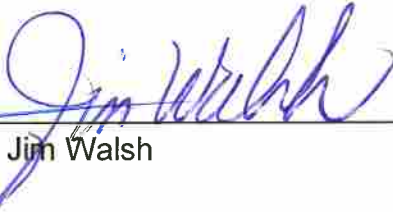
Chair, Kathy Barrett



Vice Chair, Steve Dupoise



John Roleau



Jim Walsh