

Tinmouth Planning Commission
March 16, 2023
Regular Meeting
Minutes

Members present in-person: Michael Fallar, Rainbow Squier, Judy Gilmore, Andy Gilmore

Members present via Zoom: Kim Harbaugh, Bob Lloyd, Pat Psholka, Vito Macaluso, and Larry Carabeau

Others: present in-person: Ed Bove - Rutland Regional Planning Commission and Gail Fallar Secretary
And via Zoom: Sherry Johnson, David Birdsall, and Nancy Gucker Birdsall

Michael called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm, and welcomed everyone.

First order of business was to re-organize for 2023. Pat nominated Michael for Chair, Bob for Vice Chair and Gail for Secretary. Judy 2nded. Kim abstained, all others voted in favor.

Members reviewed the agenda, no changes.

Minutes of 2/16/23, Bob moved, Andy 2nded, all voted in favor to approve as written.

Ed updated members on the progress of work on the town plan, noting there is new information coming about energy but it has not yet been released by the state. There was much discussion about the energy section – it was updated in 2020 to make it “enhanced” which means the Town Plan is given more weight when there is an application for a big energy project that has to go before the Public Utilities Commission. Should it be changed back to pre-2020, use the existing until updated data is available, or work to bring it up to new regulations? Members agreed for now to keep the current Energy Section and update it in the future – may discuss with Barbara Noyes-Pulling – RRPC, at their April meeting. Ed advised that the 2020 enhanced energy section would not pass muster for approval by the RRPC, but that the version from 2017 would.

He noted there were 3 options – 1) update the energy section – would take Ed and Barbara months – state has not yet provided the information needed for new maps, new standards, what needs to be changed;

2) use the existing, may or may not hold weight;

3) re-adopt the town plan with the old energy section (2017) with a notation that the PC will work on a new Enhanced Energy Plan in the future when the information becomes available.

Members discussed the options; whether an energy chapter or enhanced energy plan was better; how to include solar; current maps show prime wind areas – but the plan says no wind farms; new energy standards – members will take a look at them; carbon sequestration – how to account for that; etc.

Members discussed the Select Board’s adopted *Statement of Values* – some members spoke to including it in the town plan and other members spoke to the Town Plan’s Objective #4 – which has been there since the town plan was adopted in 1974, which they feel says the same thing – everyone is welcome. In the end, members decided to invite the Equity and Inclusion Committee to meet with them to discuss it at their June meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Next meeting is April 27th, changed due to conflicts of members’ availability.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Fallar, Secretary