

**HYDE PARK
TOWN PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
July 17, 2017**

All minutes are draft until approved by the Planning Commission please check future minutes for approval of these minutes. Meetings may be videotaped; recordings are held by Green Mountain Access Television. GMATV info: PO Box 581, Hyde Park, 05655; info@greenmountainaccess.tv or 802-851-1592

Members Present: Greg Paus, Chairman; Bob Malbon, Vice-Chair; and Vicki Emerson
Members Absent: Zac Cota and Eric Williams
Staff: Ron Rodjenski
Guests: Seth Jensen and Meghan Rodier, LCPC Staff; Susan Bartlett, Riki French, Carol Robertson; GMAVT did not videotape this meeting.

Greg called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

- 1) **Welcome, Modifications to Agenda and Public Comment.** No changes to the agenda were made and no public comment was received.
- 2) **Enhanced Energy Plan (“EEP”)** – Carol presented edits to the EEP and wording from the Village Planning Commission, asking if the Village would have substantial deference on projects within the Village limits and Meghan confirmed that if the Village comments are supported in the adopted plan, then yes. Meghan explained that the Public Utility Commission (formerly Public Service Board) is required to evaluate local EEPs for compliance with state objectives. Greg confirmed that the legislative body where the project is located would have substantial deference and the Village would not need to seek approval from the Town Selectboard for projects within Village limits. Carol handed out the Village Planning Commission’s draft of the energy section noting that regional commission support for local projects is critical to include in the EEP, especially regarding net metering. Carol noted that as time goes on, local electricity feedback to transmission lines may be met with resistance or prohibition, such as wind generation systems that have been told to discontinue sending power. LCPC will add the proposed language to a new draft; including support of town energy committee but not an energy coordinator, commercial generation facilities “within” one mile of 3-phase, the need to define “commercial generating facility” and noting that underground electric underground is five times more expensive than above ground. Carol would like to come back with future updates as issues come up on this complicated and evolving topic. Greg thanked Carol for attending. Riki asked that the plan be reviewed by an attorney before the adoption process starts. (Riki and Carol left at this point). Seth agreed that it was possible to weave in the proposed village language to the most recent EEP draft from LCPC. Discussion on the Village mark-up and suggested new policies and goals continued, starting on page 13 of the Village draft and page 19 of the draft EEP. Seth noted that the area of town with the most local constraints for renewable energy development is outside the Village of Hyde Park service territory. Meghan and Seth will work on a new draft for review by early August.
- 3) **Town Plan Adoption Schedule** – Set dates for hearings: September PC final draft review and approval for an October PC public hearing; then there is a requirement for two legislative body hearings; one possibly in November & one in early December. The 2012 Plan expires on December 13, 2017 and the new municipal plan will be effective for eight years.
- 4) **Chauvin Solar** – Ron recently spoke with Ray Chauvin and asked him about the limited screening, some plants appear to be dying or very slow growth, but even if healthy, less than full screening would result. Mr. Chauvin felt that they were sufficient which was confirmed by Greg Paus, referring to a second conversation he had with Mr. Chauvin. The Commission agreed to file a formal complaint, with photos, and ask for an investigation by the Public Utility Commission.
- 5) **Minutes:** Deferred June 19, 2017 minutes due to lack of quorum present that had attended that meeting. Other unapproved minutes: January 2017 & February 2017.
- 6) **Other Business**
 - a. NHP Village Center designation completed June 26th.
 - b. The Commission may take August off. Greg will make that decision in early August.
- 7) **Adjourn** – Bob motioned to adjourn 8:33 p.m., Seconded by Vicki, So voted.