

Tinmouth Planning Commission

May 25, 2016

Minutes

Members present: Kevin Ruane, Kim Harbaugh, Bob Lloyd, Michael Fallar, Grant Reynolds, and Vito Macaluso

Absent were Amanda Vumbaco, Andy Gilmore, and Denise (Tess) McGinley

Others present: Gail Fallar, Secretary

Michael called the meeting to order at 7:30.

Agenda was reviewed, no changes made; minutes of 4/20/16 were read and approved as written, Bob moved, Kevin 2nded, all voted in favor.

Flood Resiliency - There is a short version that identifies flood areas, stream banks and river corridors, a map provided by the state will also be part of that. Members noted that the Tinmouth Channel (aka Clarendon River) is already protected by the town's Protection Zone as well as a 500 foot buffer area around the north end and 100 foot buffer around the southern end. The Poultney River starts in the Purchase (and flows north to Otter Creek), as does Flower Brook which flows southwesterly into the Mettowee River – these need to be addressed. River corridor language is needed as well.

Members discussed legislative action – or lack of it- regarding municipal ability to have input for commercial solar (and other renewable energy) projects. The Public Service Board has until October to come up with standards for towns and regional planning commissions to use for town and regional plans, but the funding for regional planning was not included in the final state budget.

Grant and Vito discussed draft map they had compiled showing areas “desirable” and areas “undesirable” for commercial solar projects – much discussion about landowners, all areas were located in the rural residential zoning district, what would a solar developer consider desirable (could be different for different companies), what regional planning commissions in Rutland and Bennington counties positions were, etc. Vito also showed view scape photos taken from several locations in town. In the end, members decided not to include a map or photos in this amendment process. They may be included when the major re-write of the town plan is done in the coming months.

Work list for next meeting – final review of proposed solar language and flood resiliency language for amendment of the Town Plan. Members felt strongly that the Town should do something now, to have some language in the plan, whether the Public Service Board considers it or not, it may be beneficial to prospective developers.

Next regular meeting will be Monday June 27, 2016, 7:30. The July meeting will be bumped to August 1st in hopes of holding a public hearing on the amendment of the Town Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Fallar, Secretary