

CITIZEN PLANNING COMMITTEE

July 9, 2018 Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: 6:30 pm

CPC members Present: Chair Pamela Hamel, Bernard Dauphinais, Steve Lindsey and Planning Board Liaison Deborah Johnson

Attending: CPC Planning Consultant, Steve Whitman

Absent: CPC members, Vickie Kimball and Bonnie Lane, Vice Chair

The Chair reported that Tony Tavares resigned and asked the committee if a request should be made to the PB to appoint new members. The consensus was that the CPC should continue planning without additional new members and request the PB to set committee membership to six (6). Therefore, the committee quorum would be a majority of the membership.

Lacking a quorum the committee could not transact business, although discussions and recommendations are allowed.

The Committee deferred the reading of the June 25 minutes.

The Committee then discussed the Renewable Energy/Business District. Steve Whitman suggested that town residents have indicated that there is limited to no demand for business development. Coupled with the lack of interest for business development is the limited access to the designated district from Halls Brook Road and Route 25. The committee members reviewed the following possible business choices:

Facilities --

Solar

Wind

Waste-to-Energy

Biomass Technologies

Manufacturing and R&D --

Geothermal and/or other Bio-fuel Technologies

Power Strategies - invertors, batteries, UPS ETC.

Electric Vehicle components

Wood Burning and Pellet Stoves/Pellet making

Committee members Pam, Bernard and Steve felt many of the businesses listed above would be unsuitable, although, all merit further discussion. They further recommended wind, solar, forestry, agriculture and residential as other possible permitted uses. Steve Whitman suggested recreational camping, with a system of trails and huts. Deb disagreed; pointing out that the best way to achieve diversity of Groton's tax base was to plan for additional renewable businesses and other compatible large business interests. If the town was without the current wind farm, the taxes would skyrocket and allowing residential and recreational camping, ETC. would only cause the taxes to increase because of the town services required. The committee will continue further discussions on this issue.

Committee Assignments:

Continue to consider, and be ready to suggest those planning/zoning tools and options that will protect the land interests of all residents and the community as a whole.

Next meeting was set for 7/23/2018 at 6:30 PM and the discussions ended at 8:25 PM

Submitted by
Deb Johnson