

MINUTES

Energy Subcommittee

January 15, 2018

Shelburne Town Offices

ATTENDEES:

Sub-Committee members: Matt Dooley, Tim Guiterman, Neil Curtis, John Pascarella (Judy Raven was unable to attend due to illness)

Others: Jeff Loiter

Planning Commission convener and liaison: Jason Grignon

Town Staff: Dean Pierce

Call to Order

The session came to order at approximately 7:05

Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Open Meeting Law Requirements

Dean Pierce described Open Meeting Law requirements.

Review of Subcommittee Charge

Jason Grignon provided an introduction to the charge of the subcommittee. Dean Pierce used Powerpoint slides to provide additional context for the work of the committee.

Discussion

The primary charge of the Energy Subcommittee is to review and comment on the draft Energy section of the Shelburne Comprehensive plan. Planning Commissioners are proposing changes to the Energy section that would meet the requirements of Act 174. By complying with Act 174, Shelburne's Plan would be eligible for "substantial deference" in regulatory proceedings conducted by the Public Utility Commission (formerly known as the Public Service Board). Achieving substantial deference means the Town of Shelburne could have a stronger and louder voice during hearings held to review petitions (applications) for energy generation facilities and the like.

Members of the group have also been asked to conduct research that might help the Planning Commission assess the effectiveness of various energy efficiency measures. In the course of their work, Subcommittee members may also review energy sections found in the Comprehensive Plans over other towns are pursuing Act 174 substantial deference.

Members briefly discussed a range of more specific energy issues, such as the potential for wood based district heating.

Discussion of Schedule

The Planning Commission's schedule proposes review of a revised Energy section in April and May. The Sub Committee will meet monthly, with the next session taking place in mid February (Monday the 12th) in one of the Town office meeting rooms. Notices will be emailed. Much of the work of the committee will take place online, in that members will suggest edits to a document hosted on Google Docs. Members are encouraged to have comments added to the draft within two weeks.

Adjourn

Before adjourning, members reintroduced themselves and provided information about their respective backgrounds. Two members asked for corrections to the email addresses used for subcommittee correspondence. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35.