

WEST WINDSOR PLANNING COMMISSION

Draft Minutes

January 21, 2016

Present: Members Al Keiller, Arthur Steinberg, Elvin Kaplan and Barbara Truex; also Richard Beatty (Selectboard), Jason Rasmussen (SWCRPC), Allison Hopkins (SWCRPC), Preston Bristow (ZA)

1. Call to Order: Chair Al Keiller called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.
2. Changes or Additions: Ascutney Meadows Solar Array and Capital Budget
3. Public Comment: None
4. Ascutney Meadows Solar Array: Selectboard chair Dick Beatty presented the Selectboard's goals in seeking intervenor status in the Public Service Board application by MFW Associates for the Ascutney Meadows Solar Array near the junction of Route 44 and Ski Tow and Hotel Roads. The Selectboard is seeking screening at critical vantage points, regular mowing of the grass under and around the panels, clearing of windfalls and debris, and decommissioning when the solar panels reach the end of their productivity. Chair Al Keiller has been participating with the Selectboard in this process.
5. Capital Budget: Preston requested Jason and Allison's advice on the role the Planning Commission should play in developing a capital budget. Section 4430 of chapter 117, the statute that deals with capital budgeting, is found under subsection 8 entitled "Nonregulatory Implementation of the Municipal Plan" and seems to imply that capital budgeting is a Planning Commission responsibility. However, Jason cited section 4430(c) which states "the planning commission *may* submit recommendations annually to the legislative body for the capital budget and program" which leaves the Selectboard clearly responsible for the capital budget.
6. Kick-off meeting to draft unified zoning, subdivision and flood hazard regulations: Allison Hopkins of the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission (SWCRPC) presented three handouts for an updated unified bylaw that combines both zoning and subdivision regulations: an outline of changes, a suggested change list, and a draft table of contents. The Planning Commission reviewed these three handouts in detail and made suggestions. Allison will return at the next meeting with a rough draft of the two merged regulations (zoning plus subdivision). Jason Rasmussen will work on updating the flood hazard regulations separately.
7. Approve minutes: the minutes of the December 18, 2015 meeting were approved.
8. Adjourn: After setting February 25, 2016 at 10:00 AM as the date and time of the next regular meeting, the Planning Commission adjourned at 4:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Preston Bristow