

Hardwick Planning Commission  
September 10, 2019  
Hardwick Memorial Building  
Minutes

HPC Members Present: Joyce Mandeville; Ken Davis; Jim Lewis; Diane Grenkow; and Dave Gross, Chair  
Also Present: Kristen Leahy, Hardwick Zoning Administrator (ZA); Elizabeth Dow, Select Board Member

Chair Dave Gross opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Ken Davis moved to approve agenda with amendments. Joyce Mandeville seconded. All members were in favor.

Ken Davis moved to approve the August 13, 2019 public hearing minutes as written. Joyce Mandeville seconded. All members were in favor. Joyce Mandeville moved to approve the August 13, 2019 meeting minutes as written. Jim Lewis seconded. All members were in favor. Ken Davis moved to approve the September 3, 2019 public hearing and brief meeting minutes. Joyce Mandeville seconded. All were in favor.

The commission reviewed the Encore 1.62 MW solar proposal at 464 Billings Road for the Hardwick Electric Department (attached). Joyce Mandeville moved to produce a letter in favor of the current proposal by Encore Renewable Energy dated August 12, 2019 for the Hardwick Electric Department. Diane Grenkow seconded the motion. All members were in favor. (*The letter has been written and forwarded to Encore Energy and the Vermont Public Utility Commission*).

The HPC Chair, Dave Gross, reported that he attended the September 5, 2019 Select Board meeting for the transference of the updated Municipal Plan from the HPC to the Select Board. Dave conveyed his appreciation of the commission's diligent work. His comments were not incorporated into the Select Board hearing due to time constraints of that board.

The Select Board adopted the recommended zoning bylaw changes at their September 5, 2019 meeting. The updates will become effective as of September 26, 2019.

The Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Task Force will be meeting on Friday, September 13 at 9:30 in Front Seat Coffee (with a view of the Route 14/15 intersection).

Dave provided the Commission/Task Force with a large map overview of the downtown area. Utilizing this tool, the Commission discussed the parameters of the task. Joyce felt that the entire stretch should be examined. This would include the GRACE building to the Route 14/15 intersection. Jim expanded the area to include Glenside (across from Jiffy Mart) up Main Street and South Main Street, and up North Main Street (with the Library expansion and the upcoming LVRT improvements).

Any new structural elements (bump-outs, etc) will need to accommodate the extensive truck travel on Routes 14 and 15. Feedback should also be obtained from the Road Foreman regarding the plow trucks.

It was suggested that the stakeholders in the downtown area should be interviewed – what are their current parking needs, how do they schedule their deliveries, what do they see in the future? The conversation could also enlist the stakeholders in helping to reduce the number of employees parked on the main streets.

Discussion included how the Task Force information should be introduced at Town Meeting. General Consensus was that there should be information in the lobby (handouts) and a presentation in the meeting. A public hearing should be held after the Town Meeting to solicit further feedback from community members.

The next HPC meeting will be on October 8, 2019.

Diane Grenkow made the motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm. Ken Davis seconded. All members were in favor.

~ Respectfully submitted, Kristen Leahy, ZA