

## Town of Shaftsbury Planning Commission (PC) Meeting

January 24, 2024

In person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

### 1) Call to order and welcome new PC member

The meeting came to order at 6:01 p.m. Present were commissioners Naomi Miller (chair), Emily Cowperthwait, Chris Williams, and via zoom, Mike Foley. Also present was zoning administrator Shelly Stiles and, via zoom, citizen Michael Albus. Everyone welcomed Ms. Cowperthwaite to the Planning Commission.

### 2) Minutes, January 10 2024

Mr. Williams moved to approve the outstanding minutes. Mr. Foley seconded the motion, which passed 3-1-0.

### 3) Public comments

Mr. Albus asked whether the Commission had followed up with Shaftsbury Solar regarding relocating the proposed northeastern bank of solar panels. Ms. Miller said they'd been advised that all future conversations between the Town and the solar company shall be through the lawyers for each party. She also said she had been reminded that the Select Board is the sole official intervenor. In response to a question from Mr. Williams, she said the Select Board would be sure to communicate the Planning Commission's recommendations to the Public Utility Commission.

### 4) Enhanced energy plan (EEP), final read through, and discussion of proposed qualifications for energy committee membership

Mr. Williams recommended that the following be inserted in the EEP, page 35: "Serving on the Energy Committee requires more than interest and enthusiasm. Some level of technical expertise is required. Energy Committee members shall have expertise in some of the following areas:

- Design and construction of high performance buildings
- Photoelectric systems
- Design and construction of electrical systems
- Energy planning and/or management of the electrical grid
- Other renewable technologies such as biodiesel, geothermal systems, biomass heating, local food systems and the like. "

He said he tried to incorporate all the areas covered by the EEP. Mr. Foley suggested an addition, which all agreed to, to wit, "Professional experience in community engagement."

Mr. Williams suggested that the chair write a memo recommending this set of qualifications to the Select Board and present it in person. Mr. Foley suggested the EEP include a reference to that memo. Ms. Cowperthwait moved to approve the energy committee qualifications as amended. Mr. Foley seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Ms. Miller moved to draft a recommendation to the Select Board that an energy committee be appointed, members of which should be qualified as noted in the EEP. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

Commissioners reviewed and edited changes agreed upon at the last meeting and recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

On page 18, the second sentence, the word “alternative” will be replaced by “renewable.”

On page 22, at Ms. Burns suggestion, the following will be added after the first paragraph: Site-specific study, by the town manager and the town planning commission, is required to ascertain whether one of the mapped constraints truly exists on the site. Maps are good indicators, but not definitive siting tools.

On page 31, the last sentence beginning with “Because of the abundance” will be deleted.

On page 35, under “Requirements for Screening,” the sentence will be changed to “according to the guidelines and processes of a screening ordinance the Town of Shaftsbury is working to adopt.”

All other changes were accepted without change.

Mr. Foley moved to adopt the EEP as amended and move it to a Planning Commission hearing. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. Ms. Miller and Ms. Stiles will fine-tune the document and have it posted.

Commissioners agreed to hold a hearing on the EEP on February 28 2024. Ms. Stiles will post the warning as needed.

5) Other business

Commissioners agreed to recommend to the Select Board that Michael Albus be appointed to the Commission when an opening on the Commission next occurs.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 7:15 p.m.