



MINUTES

November 17 2016

Brown Cow Cafe
Man Street - Bennington, VT
5:30 PM

Present: Greg Van Houten (local business), Donald Campbell, (conservation), John LaVecchia (Dorset), Ed Shea (Woodford), Suzy dePeyster (Sandgate), Nancy Faesy (Dorset), Paul Myers (Peru), Gail Acosta (Peru), Charlie Rockwell (Rupert), Walt Klinger (Pownal), Bruce Lierman (transportation), Charlie Edson (Old Bennington), Anthony MacLaurin (Manchester Village), Phil Chapman (Rupert), Dan Monks (Bennington), Judy Boehlert (Sandgate), Meg Cottam (Glastenbury)

Also: Valerie dePeyster, Bill Christian, Rick Carroll, Jim Sullivan (staff), Catherine Bryars (staff), Makayla McKenny (Bennington Banner), Santina Leporati, Bill Colvin (staff)

Chairman Monks called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and introduced Anthony MacLaurin, a new commissioner representing Manchester Village.

I. Approval of 9/15/2016 Minutes

Motion (Boehlert). Second dePeyster. Passed unanimously.

II. Public Hearing: Peru and Manchester Village Plan Approval and Confirmation

Hearing opened. Brief discussion of the plans and approval/confirmation process. Noted staff reports had been completed and were favorable (they were referenced and provided in the meeting notices). No comments or concerns. Passed with 19 votes in favor (15 municipal representatives) and none opposed.

III. Bennington County Regional Energy Plan and Act 174

Jim Sullivan presented an overview of the proposed Bennington County Regional Energy Plan that has been developed over the past 18 months in cooperation with other RPCs, the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, and state agencies - partial funding provided by the Department of Public Service.

The Plan includes a discussion of energy, current use of energy for various purposes and from various sources within the region, a summary of state energy goals, projections of how the region may need to modify

energy use and development over the next 35 years to help achieve those goals, and maps of areas of suitability for renewable energy generation. The full plan can be reviewed at www.bcrcvt.org, along with the presentation.

Following a question and answer period, Sullivan noted that there will be another meeting on the Energy Plan in Manchester on December 1 (5:30 PM at the Town Office building) and formal public hearings in January.

Sullivan then described Act 174, which relates to energy planning and the siting of renewable energy resources. He described the process for getting a regional or municipal plan approved - thus elevating its status in Section 248 reviews before the Public Service Board. The BCRC will be conducting training on Act 174 and plan approval standards on December 15 in Arlington (5:30 PM at the Town Hall).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.