

Minutes
Planning Commission Meeting
Town of Coventry
Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 5:00 P.M.

Board Members Present:

Josh Griffes - Chairman
Joi Merritt
Mike Lucas
Dan Rondeau
Phil Marquette

Town Officials present :

Amanda Carlson – Town Administrator
David Gallup – Select Board

Guests :

Dori Wolfe – Wolfe Energy, Sue Harkey, Kevin Harkey, Jeanne Desrochers

1. Josh Griffes called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2 *Approve the minutes of the May 6, 2020 meeting:*

- Dan made the motion to accept the minutes of the May 6, 2020 meeting. Mike seconded the motion.
- The minutes were approved with clarification of what happened under *Other Business*

3 *Allow for public comment:*

- Resident Jeanne Desrochers expressed a desire to have unregistered vehicles within the village dealt with. She also hoped that any houses that go torn down or get repaired will reflect the historical character of the village as part of whatever economic development measures that take place.

4. *Solar Energy Project*

- Solar energy consultant Dori Wolfe, who conducted a solar feasibility study for the town, provided an overview of the study, specifically mentioning that she believes the Town of Coventry is in a uniquely good position to be considering a solar array.
- Members asked Dori questions about the study, specifically about payback period, ongoing maintenance, warranty, and different financial options for paying for an array.
- After Dori's presentation, member discussed with each other pros and cons of the proposal. Josh mentioned his concern over the 14-year simple payback. Dan mentioned the fact that the State of Vermont is wanting our energy usage to come from an increased amount of green energy and this would help accomplish that.

- There were legality questions raised about an agreement between the town and the school on this project. The Town Administrator is going to reach out to the town lawyer and/or VLCT lawyers to investigate this issue.
- No decisions were made; discussion will continue at the next meeting

6. Economic Development Plan

- Members are researching and investigating options for the Village Improvement Program (VIP).
- Josh will be creating an outline to visualize what needs to be accomplished to establish the VIP.
- Amanda provided an update on the status of the church in the village.

7. Other Business

- Josh let the commission know that the administrative assistant Carol Simmons had recently taken on more responsibility with her job and needed to devote all her time to that. As a result, she decided to step down.
- Dan mentioned his wife, Stephanie Rondeau, was interested in volunteering to be the planning commission assistant to take notes and create the minutes and agendas for meetings.
- Phil made a motion to appoint Stephanie Rondeau as the assistant to the planning commission in a volunteer capacity. Joi seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Motion to adjourn:

- Dan made the motion to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. Phil seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, July, 1 2020 at 5:00 pm at the Coventry Community Center with online options for the public to join.

Josh Griffes / Chairman

Dan Rondeau

Mike Lucas

Joi Merritt

Phil Marquette