

TOWN OF WARREN
PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
MONDAY APRIL 8, 2013

Members Present: Craig Klofach, Mike Ketchel, Don LaHaye, Jim Sanford, Lisa Miserendino, Dan Raddock and Randy Graves.

Others Present: Gregory andCarolynn Schipa, Miron Malboeuf and Ruth Robbins.

Agenda: Call meeting to order, 7:30 pm.

1. Select Board meeting April 9th, 2013
2. Traffic Calming measures for Roxbury Mtn Rd and Brook Rd, traffic counts August 2009 (Brook RD, 300 ft W of Flat Iron Rd intersection & 178 ft E of School St intersection).
3. Wind Energy – Legislative Considerations
4. Review & sign minutes from March 25th, 2012
5. Other & New business:

Mr. Klofach called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

The first item on the agenda was regarding the PC's check in with the Select Board scheduled for the following night. Mr. Klofach said he would be attending and that he planned on going over what the commission had been doing the past three months and their list of objectives going forward. He encouraged any other members who wanted to attend to do so.

The next item was a continuation of the discussion about traffic specifically coming over Roxbury Mountain and down Brook Road into the village. At the previous meeting the members looked at some data that was very dated [1997] as well as some recent data that was inconclusive as the location of the counter was not ideal, and what was also needed is a count on cars coming up Rte 100 versus over the gap. Mr. LaHaye said he would call regional about re-doing the count and hopefully get a better picture. At this meeting the members did receive information from 2009 which was much better but the current information was not yet available. This discussion will continue in a future meeting.

The topic of wind energy was the next item of discussion. Mr. Klofach opened the conversation by reminding his fellow members that during the recent update of the Town Plan that they kept themselves primarily to the task of updating statistical type information. More serious considerations of changes in the Town Plan were postponed until a later time. One of those topics which was partially inspired by the discussions in Waitsfield was that of wind power. It was suggested that in their discussion they use the terms "large scale" versus "small scale" since "industrial wind power" had such a negative connotation. It was also noted that any large scale wind power opportunities were limited due to the topography in Warren to really make an investment economically feasible, especially along the east ridge. There might be better opportunities along the western ridge [Lincoln Ridge] but due to the land ownership is pretty much out of the town's hands.

The conversation then focused on thoughts about small scale wind power. One homeowner in Warren has utilized a windmill for many years – initially off the grid but one member thought he was now on the grid. This windmill was described as being approx. 90 feet tall with 12 foot blades and no one on the commission was aware of any neighbors complaining over the years.

They discussed what they thought might be the size and power output for a small scale windmill trying to get a sense of how they might quantify such a structure. One member noted that should the PC consider allowing small scale windmills in people's backyards that they needed to be aware of not excluding those who might benefit as well as just those folks who just happen to be in the very best wind areas. Another member suggested they take a look at a "wind" map that might be helpful at seeing just how much potential there might be as an energy source and consider linking any potential zoning changes to such a wind map. Also discussed was whether certain areas might be unsuitable due to, for example, proximity to the airport, sensitive habitats, location in meadowlands area or status as 'iconic view', but the PC tabled that discussion until they were able to view the wind maps.

Should the PC go forward with making any changes regarding wind energy, it was suggested that there be some way to require "decommission" of any tower not in operation for a certain amount of time. In wrapping up their discussion one member voiced his opinion that 'technology only moves forward when you use it' and that as a commission they needed to think in the long term for future generations. It was also noted that they were in very early stages of examining a complex issue and would look at a wind map overlay at the next meeting as a follow up step.

The PC reviewed and signed the minutes of the previous meeting and received a brief update from Mr. LaHaye about the CVRPC and CVEDC consolidation effort.

The Commission adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth V. Robbins
DRB/PC Assistant

Planning Commission

Lisa Miserendino 4/22/13
Lisa Miserendino date

Craig Klofach 4/22/13.
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Don LaHaye 4/22/13
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Dan Raddock 4/22/13
Dan Raddock date

Mike Ketchel 4/22/13
Mike Ketchel date

Randy Graves 04/22/13
Randy Graves date

Jim Sanford date

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