

Bristol Planning Commission  
Meeting minutes  
Tuesday, November 20, 2018

Commission members present: Katie Raycroft-Meyer, chair, Susan Kavanagh, Bill Sayre, Bill Brown, Rob Rooker.

Members of the Public: Victor Veve and Ralph Meima of Green Lantern Solar, Andrew L'Roe of ACRPC, Alan Rathbun, Jody Rathbun Schroeder, Fred Schroeder, Ian Albinson, Richard Butz, Sally Burrell.

NEAT videographer Sean.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Chair Katie Raycroft-Meyer. No additions or changes to the agenda.

Scheduled Appointments:

1. Presentation by Green Lantern Solar regarding a proposed solar installation on the Rathbun family property, South 116. Director of Development Ralph Meima gave a brief description of Green Lantern's work in Vermont (projects across the state, Waterbury based, commercial scale projects only). Six months ago the Rathbun family inquired about the possibility of using land for a net-metering solar installation (rejected gravel site, now considering site to the west of Rt. 116, past ag production). Jody Rathbun Schroeder works as treasurer of Green Lantern. Looking at 150 KW project, net-metering program, could benefit municipal or other non-profit use (education or other public sector entity, for instance). Proposed site is not an enumerated Preferred Site and therefore would require Planning Commission, Selectboard, and Addison Country Regional Planning Commission approval in order to proceed (falls under definition 7 of preferred site in the Net Metering Rule 5.103 established Jan. 1, 2017). Preferred Site status makes a substantial difference in cost benefit per kilowatt hour – making it worth the investment to proceed. Site is approx. .8-1 acre. Mr. Meisma went on to describe the full process for consideration should the PC/SB agree to proceed after thorough consideration. Immediate work is to continue to determine the suitability of the site (biologist evaluation, ANR, Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species review, wetland evaluation, etc.) aiming toward a standard 45 notice period with the Public Service Board. Discussion and questions from the PC regarding lifespan of solar panels, necessity of an enhanced energy plan, statewide energy goals,

net metering benefits to investors, site distance from Phase 1 power line, etc. Bill S. observed that the strongest criteria for proceeding with consideration for approval of preferred site status would be: the specific site is not being used for agricultural purposes, and the site is not immediately visible (from Rt. 116 or nearby residences). Timing for formal or next step likely spring 2019. If Bristol PC/SB/ACRPC were to formally consider preferred site review and approval, Green Lantern Solar would make a formal request to do so during a future meeting. Mr. Meima shared a copy of a standard approval letter (from spring 2018, town of Vernon, for a project in that town) as well as a Google Earth illustration of the proposed site (to be included with these minutes).

2. Andrew L'Roe from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (energy management and land use planning office) will be working with Bristol on behalf of ACRPC because Bristol was approved for state funding through a grant to support the work of developing Bristol's Enhanced Energy Plan. Members of the Bristol Energy Committee attended the meeting. Andrew described the elements for establishing an enhanced energy plan (in alignment with the state energy goals, Act 174) and will be working directly with a sub-committee working group made up of members of the PC (Mark Gibson and Rob Rooker) and of the BEC (Ian Albinson and Richard Butz). Andrew briefly described the elements of a plan (renewable energy development, energy conservation and efficiency, etc.) and process for approval, and offered data and maps for consideration and review (to be submitted with these minutes). Andrew suggested the process would take approx.. six months and the working group will get right to work (Andrew coordinated with the members about meeting soon to review the scope of work, etc.). PC members will report regularly on progress to the PC at upcoming meetings.

Motion to approve October 30, 2018 meeting minutes made by Bill Brown, seconded by Bill Sayre passed 5-0 all in favor (with small typographical changes noted to chair).

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm made by Rob Rooker, seconded by Sue Kavanagh passed 5-0 all in favor. Meeting closed.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Kavanagh.