

Town of Sharon, Vermont  
**Planning Commission**  
Minutes  
FEBRUARY 9, 2021 (DRAFT)

The meeting was publicly warned in conformance with H.681 authorizing temporary amendments to Vermont’s open meeting law to protect the health and safety of the public, board members, and town employees during the state of emergency declared due to COVID-19. Links were provided for public participation by videoconference software or by conventional phone.

Attending via Zoom: Planning Commissioners Ira Clark, Sue Sellew, Paul Kristensen, Lee Simek, John Roe; Staff: Margy Becker (taking minutes), Tory Littlefield, TRORC;

**Ira Clark convened the meeting at 7:00PM.**

Nomination of Meeting Chair:

**Sue Sellew nominated Ira Clark as meeting chair. Paul Kristensen seconded and carried unanimously.**

Town Plan Revisions:

Tory Littlefield led a general review and discussion of goals and objectives for enhanced energy planning (“EEP”). The statewide focus is a movement away from traditional fossil fuel sources to more sustainable renewable energy sources.

The Town agreed to undertake the voluntary EEP process in 2017. The Sharon Energy Committee rose to the challenge and prepared an “EEP plan” by revising the Town Plan’s energy chapter to bring it into compliance with EEP standards.

Successful completion of the EEP process results in “substantial deference status” in state level Public Utility Commission proceedings. The PUC issues approvals for energy-generating facilities throughout the state, and “substantial deference status” aims to provide the town more influence on where energy facilities can be located within its borders.

Planning Commissioners finished a general review of the existing Energy Chapter. Tory Littlefield then led a review of targets for future energy generation and conservation, followed by a discussion of an upcoming mapping exercise the SPC will be required to undertake. Tory closed the review of the EEP process, with the suggestion that SPC members begin to consider ‘siting standards’ for new energy generation facilities. Siting standards of other area towns were distributed for review prior to the next meeting.

A detailed review of the Town Plan Energy Chapter is scheduled to begin at the next meeting on March 9. Discussions are to address goals, policies, and implementation actions. Sharon Energy Committee members will be invited to attend.

Approval of Minutes:

**Sue Sellew made the motion to accept the edited minutes of the November 10, 2020 meeting. John Roe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**John Roe made the motion to approve the December 8, 2020 minutes as amended. Paul Kristensen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Paul Kristensen made the motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2021 as amended. John Roe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Adjourn:

**Sue Sellew made the motion to adjourn at 9:00PM. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.**

Submitted by,  
Margy Becker