

Glover Planning Commission Meeting January 6, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 PM by Randy.

Ann L., Ann C., Mariel, Jim, Jack, Carmela, Sen. John Rodgers, Randy and Liz were present.

The minutes of the last meeting were corrected: Jim observed that "brown field" is one word.

Ann C. moved to accept the minutes with the correction, Ann L. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. John Rodgers discussed issues and answered questions about legislative actions and that will affect the Glover Town Plan.

He thinks new rules might be coming down from new recommendations which might give towns the ability to plan for their own energy siting. Also, the State energy plan could completely change.

The NEK is a "constricted area" on the larger grid. This area extends from west of Jay Peak almost to St. Johnsbury. When too much alternative energy is produced from the industrial wind towers and the solar farms it causes a jam-up which damages the transmission lines. The alternative generators have to agree to shut down when there is too much energy being produced.

To upgrade the lines is very expensive. A better solution is to have more localized generation and use.

There is new technology being developed for storage in batteries.

John observed that lobbyists for power companies have great influence on politicians because of their huge political contributions.

Randy asked if we should use the term "restricted grid" in our plan. John although we can state our preferences we can't really say no.

Jack mentioned that the person proposing two wind towers in Irasburg will bring in his own three phase power capacity. John stated that the Lowell wind turbines generate 1,000,000 (?) a year.

Carmela observed that the new Governor Scott did not mention energy in his inauguration speech.

John said that the new owners of the dams on the Connecticut River may generate electricity and that if the TDI (transmission line) goes in it will bring 200 mg watts from Canada which will count as renewable energy.

The VEC Coop is exploring batteries that use seawater and cotton, instead of toxic materials like ion batteries. They are more environmentally safe. We should use products that don't create toxic wastelands.

There is a bill to make every renewable energy proposal come under act 250 but he doesn't think it has much of a chance. We should talk to other parts of the state who are also concerned.

The energy committee will meet next Jan. 13 with Paul Marcowitz, VEIC. SunCommon is having a demonstration in Walden Jan. 8th.

Would the west Glover defunct leach field be a good place for a solar farm? The cutoff for requiring a certificate of public good is 15 KW or 80 panels.

We reminded ourselves, the planning commission, about VT211.org as a source of many kinds of information.

Randy read a draft of the report about the Glover Planning Commission for the Glover Town Report for the Town Meeting that goes to press in late January.

Liz will find out more information about the Hardwick Community Calendar.

Jack has mentioned the possibility of adopting the NVDA Housing Plan, about 25 pages.

We should also consider the economic development opportunity of methane/energy production from the local farms.

The Commission needs to go over the Education section with Brian.

The next planning meeting will be January 19, 2017.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ann L. and seconded by Mariel.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Nelson