

## **Shaftsbury Planning Commission**

9/24/19

### **Call to order**

The meeting came to order at 6:04 pm. Present were commissioners Chris Williams (chair), Mike Foley, Naomi Miller, and Mike Cichanowski; zoning administrator Shelly Stiles; and in the audience, select board members Tony Krulikowski and Tim Scoggins. Others joined the audience later in the evening.

### **Town Plan hearing**

Mr. Williams opened the hearing. Mr. Krulikowski spoke, saying he felt strongly that, to bring in more residents, create more housing, and improve the town center, we need to work more closely with other regional communities. Mr. Williams and others added that imagination is needed, and a sense of hope that positive change is possible. Various examples of a lack of cooperation were shared. It was noted that poorer communities such as the Southshire, where residents may work two or more jobs and have less time for community efforts, face larger challenges than wealthier communities.

Mr. Scoggins congratulated the commission on the new Plan, saying the nearly complete rewrite was a lot of work, and that the final document is one that will guide the town going forward.

A reviewer had earlier sent via email a correction to the Education chapter: "Head Start no longer has a building on Grange Rd ("Red Brick"). UCS/Head Start sold that about four years back to Jackie Myers who operates Myers-Prouty Childcare Campuses. You might also be able to find it as Shaftsbury Early Childhood Center. If you'd like to contact Jackie she's at 688-9570. She was operating a childcare (Lil' Peeps) out of the Grange for several years before she bought Red Brick from us." Ms. Stiles will incorporate that edit in the revised document before sending to Mr. Scoggins in a Word version.

Ms. Miller moved to approve the Plan with the above referenced correction and send it to the Select Board for their action. Mr. Foley seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

### **Outstanding minutes**

Mr. Foley moved to approve the July 9, 2019 minutes. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-1, with Mr. Williams abstaining.

Mr. Foley moved to approve the August 3, 2019 minutes. Mr. Cichanowski seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-1, with Ms. Miller abstaining.

### **Other business**

Mr. Williams asked members what they would like to work on next. Mr. Cichanowski asked Mr. Scoggins whether he needs help with the broadband issue. He said not at present; he is waiting to see how the three grants the state will offer will play out. He said that while cell coverage is as important to him as broadband, he sees fewer options for improving cell coverage than with broadband.

Mr. Foley said he'd be interested in pursuing the municipal forest project.

Ms. Miller suggested waiting until a list of the "homework" (the actions from the Plan) has been compiled to discuss further. Ms. Stiles will create that list.

Cat Bryers of the Bennington Regional Commission (BCRC) presented a request that the Commission sign on to a BCRC initiative to review all town bylaws to learn what, if any, obstacles they present to the

creation of affordable housing. What barriers do they pose? What is out of date in today's housing climate? The document could assist the commission in the future – for example, when innovative wastewater solutions become available. Mr. Cichanowski moved to participate in the BCRC Regional Housing Bylaw Survey. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0. Mr. Williams signed the statement Ms. Bryers proffered. She said she'd come back around April, when the survey has been completed, to report.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at about 7:15 p.m.

Notes by ZA Stiles.