

## Shaftsbury Planning Commission

June 14, 2023

In person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

### 1) Call to order

The meeting came to order at 6 p.m. Present were commissioners Naomi Miller (chair), Chris Williams, Nancy Burns, and Martha Cornwell.

### 2) Approval of minutes May 31, 2023

Mr. Williams moved to approve the May 31 minutes. Ms. Cornwell seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

### 3) Presentation and discussion, BCRC analysis of Shaftsbury energy use

BCRC Assistant Director/Planning Program Manager Janet Hurley and planner Callie Fishburn presented their analysis of energy use in Shaftsbury in a powerpoint. That presentation is incorporated in these minutes by reference and can be viewed at [www.shaftsburyvt.gov](http://www.shaftsburyvt.gov).

Following the presentation, a discussion was held with various attendees. Some of the comments included:

- Consider ground-mounted and parking canopy solar arrays
- Look at ways to improve our renewable energy profile (rather than fight renewable proposals)
- What is the estimated increase in electrical use by 2050?
- Energy generated in Shaftsbury ultimately offsets fossil fuel use in the region.
- The grid isn't quite adapted to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- How do Vermont's goals compare to those of our neighbors, including Canada?
- Green Mountain Power is trying actively to strengthen a consortium developing off-shore wind.
- How do we guarantee that new structures in Vermont meet the state's residential building code?
- Doing outreach regarding energy efficiency is a goal in the existing Shaftsbury Town Plan.
- Shaftsbury could make residents more aware of the audits offered by Heat Squad and rebates from Efficiency Vermont and other organizations. A lot of people don't know about such options. Many are not income-limited.
- Ms. Hurley recommended that such outreach should be the responsibility of the energy committee.
- The Town Plan should explain why reducing fossil fuel use is important.
- Individuals can't always, for example, afford to replace their furnaces with heat pumps. But weatherization and other actions can address the need to reduce fossil fuel use other ways. The energy analysis assumes that weatherization efforts will grow over time.
- An energy committee could host sessions exploring how such other efforts could save people money. A case study could be included in the revised Town Plan.
- Some towns in the county have an energy coordinator.
- What percentage of Shaftsbury's energy use is represented by the Shaftsbury Solar proposal? The data analysis does not actually reflect the Town's energy use, replied Ms. Fishburn.
- Ms. Hurley asked whether citizens should consider array size, screening, preferred sites, and wind, among other issues. Ms. Miller said the Planning Commission needs to hear from citizens about these questions so it can pass that information on to the BCRC. These and other questions can be placed on the town website.

- The PUC's review of the Shaftsbury Solar project will take place under the Town's current policy, as expressed in the 2019 Town Plan.

Another meeting will be held in July or so, and will address comments received regarding the evening's presentation.

#### 4) Other business

Ms. Cornwell moved to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Ms. Burns seconded the motion, which passed 5-0-0.

Notes by ZA Stiles.