

Town of Conway

Minutes of the Conway Planning Board Meeting, May 19, 2016

Present: Chairman Joseph Strzegowski, Mary McClintock, Andy Jaffe, Sue McFarland and David Chichester.

Absent:

Guests: Conway Energy Committee: Sue Bridge, Brice Hereford, Peter Martin, Peter Rosnick.

Chairman Strzegowski opened the meeting, as a joint meeting with the Energy Committee, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conway Town Office.

1. The minutes of the April 7, 2016, regular Planning Board meeting were approved as written.
2. Discussion with the members of the Conway Energy Committee covered the following items:
 - a) Review of the Town Meeting discussion regarding the warrant article proposing the addition of two acres of land to the current Solar District layout at the Conway Grammar School.
 - b) Acknowledgement that a better job could have been done to communicate with all possible stakeholders for that parcel of land.
 - c) A need to have a Master Plan for the broader School property and possibly for other parcels of land in Conway for special projects.
 - d) An agreement that wattage alone, as stated on solar panels should no longer be the only defining metric. Size should also be expressed in square footage. And the Bylaw should reflect both. The issue is that the Green Community Guidelines are not expressed in square footage, as relates to the Solar Districts.
 - e) There are many parcels of land suitable for larger solar arrays in Conway; however, many acres are covered under restricted covenants.
 - f) General agreement that a Bylaw is needed that addresses Solar in a more comprehensive and detailed way. Possibly have one set of rules for the overlay district and other definitions for the rest of the town.
 - g) Because there appears to be many potential needs for land-based projects in Conway, the group agreed there should be conversations with all of the stakeholders to coordinate the interests. The Planning Board agreed to take the lead in working with the Selectboard and sponsoring a group discussion with possible stakeholders to identify other interests, to include:
 - i. Town Garage
 - ii. Affordable Housing
 - iii. Solar Garden
 - iv. Parks and Recreation
 - v. Open Space – Nature Trail
 - vi. School reserve septic system
 - vii. Abutters
 - viii. Downtown wastewater leaching facilities

ACTION ITEM:

Mr. Strzegowski will talk with the Town Administrator to suggest a joint effort with the Selectboard to sponsor a dialogue with interested stakeholders.

3. The Planning Board elected officers for the ensuing year:
 - a) Joseph Strzegowski and Mary McClintock: Co-chairs
 - b) Sue McFarland and Dave Chichester: Co-clerks
 - c) Andy Jaffe: Archivist and Documentarian

ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. Chichester will advise the Town Administrator of these election results and request changes be made to the town's web site.

Mr. Jaffe will draft proposed job descriptions and task lists.

4. There was a brief discussion about the need to draft Associate Members to add to the Planning Board's bench strength. Members are encouraged to pursue recruiting efforts.

ACTION ITEM:

Ms McFarland and Mr. Jaffe have particular people in mind and will pursue conversations with them.

5. There was a general discussion about the recent Town Meeting and lessons learned.

There being no further business, the members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next regularly scheduled meetings will be on Thursday, June 2, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at the Conway Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,
David I Chichester