



## **MINUTES**

Thursday – July 16, 2020

5:30 PM

Zoom Meeting

Present: Janet Hurley, Charlie Rockwell, Nick Zaiac, Megan Herrington, Cynthia Browning,  
John LaVecchia, Sr., John LaVecchia, Jr., Bruce Lierman, Nancy Faesy, Tyler Yandow  
BCRC Staff: Jim Sullivan, Catherine Bryars, Bill Colvin

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

II. **Public Hearing: Consideration of Approval of Town Plans for Arlington, Dorset, Manchester, and Shaftsbury**

The hearing was closed after introductory comments and no discussion, and all ballots counted with 16 municipal representatives voting in favor of approval (13 required); 19 total votes in favor. The plans are approved and the municipal planning processes confirmed.

III. **Public Hearing: Consideration of Approval of Determinations of Energy Compliance for the Arlington, Dorset, and Manchester Town Plans**

The hearing was closed after introductory comments and no discussion, and all ballots counted with 16 municipal representatives voting in favor of approval (13 required); 19 total votes in favor. The plans are approved and the Chair will sign Determinations of Energy Compliance that will be provided to the Public Utility Commission.

IV. **Review and Discussion of Proposed Amendments to the BCRC Bylaws**

Jim Sullivan presented an overview of the proposed changes:

Section 2:

- Change the number of voting commissioners per town from two to one (villages and Glastenbury stay the same, with one). Each town will still have two representatives, but will have to designate a commissioner and a “co-commissioner.”

- To be consistent with statute, interest group representatives (other than the economic development representatives) are made non-voting members.
- If a municipality fails to appoint a commissioner, the chair of the municipal planning commission is considered to be the commissioner.

Section 3:

- One vote per municipality (commissioner, or, if unable to vote, the co-commissioner votes).
- Any votes can be done via postal and/or electronic (email) ballot prior to a meeting.

Discussion: Question asked about current and projected total number of commissioners and representation (result of bylaw changes would be to have 17 voting municipal commissioners and 30 total municipal commissioners, five economic development commissioners, and interest group representation from energy, transportation, housing, and public health – and any other interest approved by the commission).

Question about role of co-commissioner (essentially the same as now, bringing local input to the full commission, returning information to their town or village – just not voting on the few items that the full commission is required to vote on – largely regional plan adoption and municipal plan approvals).

Some discussion ensued as to the history of the commission and changing municipal representation over time, current role of the commission, the executive committee, executive director, and staff. Noted the need to be able to ensure that key issues are voted on by a majority of the voting commissioners. With continuing municipal vacancies and lack of participation by many commissioners, quorums have been increasingly difficult to obtain. Thus, the proposed change to consolidate voting representation as well as to specifically authorize mail-in/email-in ballots.

The Bylaw amendments will be voted on in September.

V. **Other Business**

September meeting – also likely to be held via Zoom – will include a presentation on the State’s new “Zoning for Great Neighborhoods” report and a related project that the BCRC has been working on involving municipal land use regulations related to housing in our region.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Sullivan  
Executive Director