

Bennington County Regional Commission
Joint Meeting of the Plan Review and Regional Energy Committee
February 22, 2018 - 4:30 PM
BCRC Offices – Bennington, VT

Present: Rob Costantino, Ed Shea, Barbara True-Weber, Wayn Goodman, Jeannie Jenkins,
Rebecca Dragon
Catherine Bryars and Jim Sullivan (BCRC Staff)

Also Present: Dan Monks (Town of Bennington)
Bill Thwing, Micahel Weber, Jane Griswold Radocchia, David A. Durfee,
Marsh Hudson-Knapp, Cindy Hudson-Knapp (interested residents)

I. Bennington Town Plan and Energy Amendment

The two committees present met to consider comments and a possible recommendation to the full BCRC membership regarding the recently amended Bennington Town Plan. The Commission must decide whether the amended plan meets the requirements for a town plan (24 VSA Section 4350) and whether it meets the standards required for a determination of energy compliance pursuant to 24 VSA Section 4352.

Sullivan and Bryars provided a brief overview of the staff reports that had been provided to committee members. Goodman indicated that he was in general agreement with the report and felt that the plan warranted approval under both sections of the statute, although he did want to take one more look at some of the concerns raised by ECOS Energy.

The planning process and the benefits of having an approved plan were discussed.

By consensus, the energy and plan review committees decided to recommend that the Bennington Town Plan be approved under both 24 VSA Section 4350 and 4352 and that the Commission issue a determination of energy compliance, as requested by the Town.

II. Other Business

Members of the Bennington Climate Advocates presented some information on a resolution they are supporting at the upcoming town meeting, calling for legislative action to include the “90% renewables by 2050” goal into state law. Discussion ensued as to how their organization could work to help implement the Town Plan’s energy policies. Also discussed was the upcoming improvements to the town police stations, which is a major user of energy. Wayn Goodman offered to help ensure that any RFP included appropriate energy efficiency language.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
James Sullivan