

DRAFT
Pittsford Planning Commission Meeting
July 25, 2024

Board Members Present: Rick Conway, Kevin Blow, Mike Norris, Chuck Charbonneau, Gordon Fox, Donna Wilson

Others Present: Jeff Biasuzzi

1. Meeting - Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:09PM by Kevin Blow – Chair.

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Chuck Charbonneau and seconded by Mike Norris to approve the agenda. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Chuck Charbonneau questioned if there is information that should be added to the agenda regarding a potential solar project. Donna Wilson stated the solar project that is in the works is just at the beginning of the process. Kevin Blow noted he received information last month as an abutting landowner. Mike Norris stated the Planning Commission could write a letter of support, but currently the Planning Commission has no control over solar projects. It was noted there has not been any information received by other members of the Planning Commission and the 45-day notice is sent to the Planning Commission and the Select Board.

3. Approval of Minutes

. June 27, 2024

This item was tabled to the next meeting to allow all Planning Commission members the opportunity to review the minutes.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Old Business

. Work on the Enhanced Energy Plan/Review Jerem

Kevin Blow advised Jeremy Gildrien of the RRPC had requested the Commission review Brandon’s Enhanced Energy Plan. Mr. Gildrien also provided the Commission with an initial draft to consider. Robb Spensely has created an opening statement and it was the consensus of the Commission to continue with the review of the Brandon Plan.

Page 11 – Thermal Sector Analysis - In the first paragraph, Kevin Blow questioned how monitoring of higher efficiency appliances and weatherization could be done. Rick Conway stated there was discussion of doing a survey as it is not known what types of energy efficiencies the homes in town have. Chuck Charbonneau suggested when doing a future town appraisal, the assessors could be asked to obtain this information. Donna Wilson noted some of the comments in the document could be recommendations. It was the consensus that there were no modifications to Page 11.

Page 12 – Thermal Sector Analysis - In the first paragraph, it was suggested to strike the following: “We believe that adopting State building standards for energy” with the remainder of the sentence to read: “Energy Efficient buildings are necessary to develop Pittsford in an affordable manner that lowers energy demand”. It was suggested to remove the third paragraph regarding Green Mountain Power. Rick Conway noted Pittsford previously had its own local power, but the

power is now coming from another country. Mr. Conway suggested including verbiage about encouraging other utilities from other agencies. Mike Norris stated currently it is a regulated market.

Page 13 – Thermal Sector Pathways - There was discussion about the action for adopting State building code standards for energy efficient permits and it was the consensus of the Commission to strike this action. It was suggested to have a link on the Town’s website regarding available renewable resources and strike the action item regarding hosting an annual workshop on heat pumps, networked heating and cooling and upcoming renewable technologies as it is a duplicate of what is noted on Page 10.

Page 14 – Transportation Sector Analysis – In the first paragraph, Mike Norris suggested the verbiage “fuel switching to electricity, and decreasing to miles traveled” be removed. It was noted the most difficult action will be decreasing the number of vehicle miles traveled by residents due to commuting for work. Donna Wilson volunteered to rewrite Page 14 and reduce the verbiage for further consideration.

Page 15 – Transportation Sector Pathways - It was the consensus that there were no modifications to Page 15.

Page 16 – Transportation Sector Pathways - It was the consensus of the Commission to eliminate the following actions: Work with RRPC to create an EV Charger Master Plan by 2026, Host 1 annual educational event describing available tech, costs and incentives for EVs, Recruit EVSE provider to install DC fast charger in town, and Develop long-term capital plan to maintain existing and future walk/bike infrastructure.

Page 17 – Electric Sector Analysis - Rick Conway noted he would like to see Omya’s usage backed out of the numbers. Mr. Conway stated the Town has met the goals for solar. Chuck Charbonneau stated there are three solar projects that have not been built and questioned if those projects are included in the solar numbers. Mr. Charbonneau stated if the projects do not happen has the Town met the goal and questioned if there would be State penalties if the goals are not met. It was the consensus of the Commission there would be no modifications to Page 17.

Page 18 – Renewable Generation - Kevin Blow questioned if the Town has enough land to accommodate all the energy efficient items that include biomass, rooftop solar, wind and solar. It was the consensus of the Commission to keep this page with Mr. Gildrien to adjust the figures.

Page 19 – Electric Sector Pathways - There was a question about the objective and actions regarding preferred solar sites. Mike Norris noted a developer could put a project in a non-preferred solar site, but they would receive less per kilowatt hour for the generation. Chuck Charbonneau expressed concern that there may be property owners who want to place a solar field on their property that is not listed as a preferred site and he does not believe in restricting property owners. It was suggested to eliminate Page 19. It was also suggested the Select Board could determine the sites and advise the Planning Commission.

6. New Business

. Discuss New Open Meeting Laws

It was noted the Select Board will be trained in the new Open Meeting laws and will then provide instruction to the committees or will bring in someone to advise the committees. Jeff Biasuzzi stated the legislation was in effect as of July 1st that requires all boards and committees of the Town to provide a Zoom link or an equivalent for all meetings. Mr. Biasuzzi advised information on the law can be viewed on the RRPC’s website.

It was also noted the Select Board is requesting the Town’s committees send a quarterly report to either Dave Atherton or Alicia Malay, or to make an appearance at a Select Board meeting to provide an update to the Board on progress and actions of the committees. Rick Conway suggested the Planning Commission minutes could be sent to the Select Board to provide updates on the Planning Commission’s progress. Donna Wilson will confirm with Dave Atherton or Alicia Malay on what is required of the Planning Commission.

Kevin Blow provided information to the Planning Commission members about Town Fair 24.

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7. Next Meeting

August 22, 2024 @ 7:00PM at the Pittsford Town Office

9. Adjournment

A motion was made by Chuck Charbonneau and seconded by Mike Norris to adjourn the meeting at 9:00PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary

Approved by,

The Pittsford Planning Commission