

**DRAFT**  
**Pittsford Planning Commission Meeting**  
**September 26, 2024**

**Board Members Present:** Rick Conway, Kevin Blow, Chuck Charbonneau, Donna Wilson, Mark Pape

**Others Present:** Jeff Biasuzzi

**1. Meeting - Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:18PM by Kevin Blow – Chair.

**2. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

A motion was made by Donna Wilson and seconded by Mark Pape to approve the agenda, as amended. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Remove item a) Old Business to bring the agenda back in order.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

*. August 22, 2024*

A motion was made by Donna Wilson and seconded by Rick Conway to approve the August 22, 2024 Planning Commission meeting minutes, as amended. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Addition to the minutes that Alicia Malay had indicated she was going to send the Planning Commission the response the Select Board received from RRPC regarding the solar.

**4. Public Comment**

There was no discussion held.

**5. Old Business**

Rick Conway suggested the Commission review the follow-on comments by Jeremy Gildrien of the RRPC relating to the development of the Energy Plan. Donna Wilson suggested requesting the information the Select Board received from the RRPC regarding solar. Rick Conway noted he reviewed the information that was sent by Jeremy Gildrien that included comments from the Planning Commissions' July 25<sup>th</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup> meetings and a draft plan by the RRPC. Mr. Conway stated additional discussion will be required as there are questions regarding comments provided by Mr. Norris. With regard to goal numbers, there were questions about Omya's numbers and the solar projects that have not been built and whether there will be a penalty if the projects do not come to fruition but have been included in the Town's goals. Mr. Gildrien had indicated there are not penalties for unmet goals. There has been no official action on the Introduction that Robb Spensley had provided. Chuck Charbonneau stated he would like assurance there will not be penalties in reference to the solar projects that have not been constructed yet but are in the Town's target number.

Regarding the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes concerning the review of the Brandon Energy Plan, Mr. Conway noted for the Transportation Sector Analysis on Page 14, Mr. Gildrien had noted standards require discussion, policy and action related to fuel switching and decreased vehicle miles traveled. This item was postponed to a subsequent meeting. On Page 16 regarding the Transportation Sector Pathways, Mr. Gildrien has removed the actions from the draft. For renewable generation, the targets are already met according to Mr. Gildrien. Page 19 - Electrical Sector Pathways, Mr. Gildrien suggested choosing existing solar locations as preferred sites. This will need to be discussed further as this relates to mapping and was tabled to a subsequent meeting to discuss with Mr. Gildrien.

With regard to the review of Mr. Gildrien's comments from the August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, Mr. Conway noted Pages 21 through 24 regarding maps are for commercial. A wind energy map would not be included and the Commission will follow-up on the other maps when discussing mapping with Mr. Gildrien. For Pages 25 – 26, the Renewable Energy Developer questionnaire, Mr. Gildrien indicated it is not necessary to include and is simply a copy of existing rules that govern solar siting. The Commission agreed with Mr. Gildrien. Page 27 - Preferred Solar Locations, Mr. Gildrien suggested choosing existing solar locations as preferred sites and this will need to be discussed during a separate meeting related to mapping. It was noted that Alicia Malay reported the Mr. Gildrien had met with the Select Board and the Planning Commission needs the chart to know what they are talking about. The maps are key as to whether the proposed solar projects are noted on the maps as all permits have been applied for, but the projects have not been developed. Rick Conway stated the Select Board had been requested to send the information they received, but no information has been received to date. This item was also table to provide all members the opportunity to review the comments of Mr. Gildrien. The Planning Commission was not clear with Mr. Gildrien's comments concerning the Transportation Section. With regard to the action about public transportation, Mr. Gildrien suggested this comment could be added to the actions for the plan. Rick Conway stated with regard to electrical for Omya, he would like this split out and in Mr. Gildrien's draft he does not indicate natural gas, and this is something that Omya does use. Mr. Gildrien will need to explain the comment provided regarding Omya's data. Omya is using natural gas to dry their product and the electric static precipitators use a large amount of electricity. Robb Spensley's Introduction was reviewed and Mr. Gildrien suggested reviewing the draft plan to determine if it covers all of the concepts noted. With regard to the EV Charger Master plan, the Planning Commission had indicated EV chargers would be considered, but there was not a need for a master plan.

## **6. New Business**

### ***. Review Draft Enhanced Energy Plan from Jeremy Gildrien of RRPC***

Jeremy Gildrien sent a draft of a proposed enhanced energy plan to the Planning Commission on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The Planning Commission reviewed the draft. With regard to the introduction, it was questioned why Robb's introduction was not used. It was noted that the Planning Commission had been asked to review the Brandon Energy Plan and was also provided a draft plan from Mr. Gildrien. This is a revised draft and is close to the initial draft that was sent. It was questioned if there could be a reduced version to a couple of pages. If there are Vermont statutes, they should be made clear to the Planning Commission. A simplified plan is the preference of the Planning Commission. The review of the plan was changed to every 4 years and the draft indicates every 2 years. The introduction had been decided on to use what Robb Spensley had submitted with some modifications. If that is not understandable, the Planning Commission needs to know why. Under the Goals section, in talking about global warming and the statutory requirements of 7b, the Commission needs to see the document that is being referenced. Kevin Blow suggested the 25 x 25 goal and Building Efficiency legislation needs to be clarified. Under the Impacts of Fuel Usage section, it was noted these are projections by a computer. Mr. Conway stated the number of pellets used is not listed, nor is propane or natural gas. Mr. Conway asked if the BTU numbers also include Omya and stated if the BTU calculation is used, is it the aggregate as there is thermal and transportation and he thought it is too general. Donna Wilson stated the fuel use does not include transportation. Mr. Conway questioned the accuracy of the figures that are provided. Ms. Wilson suggested that the document should not be this specific. Ms. Wilson stated the information regarding the number of heat pumps will be determined with the next reappraisal. With regard to the Equity section, Mr. Conway noted the Planning Commission had eliminated this section. Pittsford was one of the first towns to sign the declaration of inclusion and it was not thought the verbiage is needed. It was suggested the Plan could have one paragraph on equity. Ms. Wilson noted BROOC is available to help with equity. Mr. Conway stated at the last Planning Commission meeting, Mark Winslow had indicated to eliminate the equity statement. Ms. Wilson noted the new updates could be items the State is requiring and suggested condensing the equity to two paragraphs. Under the Health section. Mr. Conway noted pellet stoves are not included and questioned if burning wood and biomass are lumped into one. It notes that Pittsford has good air quality but indicates limiting the amount of fuel in the area is the best way to improve air quality. Mr. Conway asked if there is a significant health impact in Pittsford as he does not know that the fuel usage is an issue. In the Resilience section, Ms. Wilson stated to have storage one has to have funds. Mr. Conway noted concern with figures for the Universal Targets, noting it is not realistic. Mark Pape stated the figure seems to be a really high number and the Town would be reducing its energy consumption more than 100%. The Planning Commission ended their review with Universal Analysis. Mr. Conway will invite Jeremy Gildrien to the next meeting to discuss the energy plan draft in more detail.

Jeff Biasuzzi provided a handout from VLCT regarding an upcoming Planning and Zoning training seminar that will be in-person since the pandemic. This is an all-day meeting and can be done remotely. This is an opportunity to get together with a group to discuss municipal topics. The Town will pay the tuition and will pay the milage for anyone interested in attending. Mr. Biasuzzi advised Vermont Municipal Day is also coming up and is usually held at the National Life Insurance building. There are generally four topics in both the morning and afternoon and attendees choose two of the four topics and usually has a keynote speaker.

## **7. Next Meeting**

October 24, 2024 @ 7:00PM at the Pittsford Town Office

## **8. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Chuck Charbonneau and seconded by Rick Conway to adjourn the meeting at 8:41M. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant  
Recording Secretary

Approved by,

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The Pittsford Planning Commission