

Planning Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 11
Peacham Town Office

Present:

Marilyn Magnus, Bruce Maclean, Rick Scholes, Anna Rubin

Alison Lowe (NVDA)

Public: Bruce Westcott, Energy Committee

Marilyn Magnus called the meeting to order at 7:06.

Minutes reviewed.

RS moved to approve, MM seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Alison Lowe presented a draft energy plan with revisions. She commented that the plan must be comprehensive. The plan should offer ways to make energy more affordable.

Discussion followed with questions from Bruce Westcott, including edits to pages 4, 13, 11. Changes were noted by Alison Lowe.

Discussion about gathering data to identify preferred sites to develop solar farms (brown fields, gravel pits). Focus on incentives for solar development to serve municipal or nonprofit outtakers.

Bruce Westcott asked for clarification about table 6.2 on page 7: specifically definition of "commercial".

Alison Lowe said in this context the meaning is nonresidential buildings.

Discussion followed regarding the source of data for charts. Alison Lowe clarified that figures are projections, to give an "idea of the dynamics of change." Rich Scholes questioned the nature of projections as they relate to the specific situation in Peacham. Alison Lowe commented that the report includes model-based projections, not exact measurements,

Bruce Westcott suggested emphasizing the explanation that figures are model-based, not exact.

P 14: The committee suggested striking the word "robust" in the statement about the NEK.

P 1: The committee suggested that there is no data to support Peacham as more attractive than other communities to climate refugees. Bruce Westcott suggested alternative language such as "Making in-migration to northern VT more likely" to replace references to "climate refugees."

Climate is changing in some places, and we know that that will make northern VT more appealing.

Alison Lowe questioned how the committee plans to integrate into town plan and eliminate redundancies.

Marilyn Magnus stated that it's Important to identify who is responsible and describe strategies for implementation. There should be a single implementation plan.

Alison Lowe presented the revised Village Center Designation map.

The Village Center Designation review needs

- description of the context of Peacham
- list of recent developments and challenges
- pictures of buildings in the designation area
- Street views & every nonresidential structures

Rick Scholes to get pictures of buildings.

Application to be completed by March 2.

Marilyn Magnus proposed Jock Gill as committee chair.

Possibly rotating chair

Marilyn Magnus suggested changing the meeting start time to 7:00 and keeping the meeting length to an hour.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully submitted, Anna Rubin