

PLANNING COMMISSION

The role of the Shaftsbury Planning Commission has three distinct but inter-related responsibilities. 1) To review and update the Town Plan every five years; 2) To propose and prepare new Zoning Bylaws, and, monitor and revise existing Bylaws as required to fulfill the vision of the Town Plan; and 3) Manage the Zoning Administrator as he issues permits and otherwise enforces the Zoning Bylaws.

The Planning Commission membership for 2009 included Craig Bruder, Chair; Chris Williams, Vice Chair; Bob Carter; Bill Pennebaker and Norm St.Onge.

In the first half of 2009 the Planning Commission finalized and released the revised Town Plan. It was the culmination of an 18 month effort and after a series of warned public meetings and final revisions the Plan was enacted by the Selectboard in May 2009. The Town Plan can be viewed by visiting the town's website at www.Shaftsbury.net.

In the latter half of 2009 the Planning Commission worked to create or revise several Bylaws and Ordinances including; the Highway Access Ordinance, the Sign Ordinance, Pole Barn Enclosure Bylaw, and the Home Occupation Bylaw to name but a few. Public meetings will be warned in early 2010 to ensure that residents have a chance to review and provide feedback before these, and other, Bylaws and Ordinances are enacted.

The close of 2009 has brought about a reorganization of the Planning Commission as Bob Carter has resigned; we wish to thank Bob for his contributions. He will be missed. Bill Pennebaker has also resigned, but has stayed on in an ex-officio capacity, and Norm St.Onge has assumed the Chair of the commission after Craig Bruder's appointment to the Selectboard.

Our immediate goal in 2010 is to recruit new members to fill the two open vacancies; interested residents are encouraged to contact any Planning Commission member for more information. Among our other goals for 2010 are to address the Sub-Division Bylaw, the Historic District Bylaw, expanding the Village Residential district and adding more structure and guidelines around the Zoning Administration function.

The Planning Commission encourages residents of Shaftsbury to familiarize themselves with the Town Plan and Zoning Bylaws as these two documents can and do impact the growth potential and management of the town on a daily basis. Planning Commission meetings are held at Cole Hall on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Norm St.Onge, Chair