

**Shaftsbury Planning Commission
Shaftsbury Town Hall
Buck Hill Rd at 7:00 pm
Regular Meeting
February 12, 2013**

Members present: Chris Williams (Chair), Abigail Beck, Norm Gronning, William Pennebaker, David Spurr (Vice-Chair)

Members absent: none

Others present: Tyler Yandow (Zoning Administrator), Sandra Mangsen (Recording Clerk), Michael Foley, John Godfrey, Tom Huncharek, Jay Palmer, JoAnn Race, Jeri Schoof

1. Call to Order

Chris Williams called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. Approval of minutes of January 22, 2013.

Motion. To approve the minutes of January 22, 2013, as corrected. Moved by Bill Pennebaker; seconded by David Spurr. Carried, 4-0-1 (Gronning abstaining).

3. Sign Ordinance.

Discussion was deferred in order to address the Town Plan revision.

4. Town plan revision.

Chapters 1 (Introduction) and 2 (Goals) were discussed. Copies were made available to all in attendance.

Chris Williams began by noting that the concept of "growth" plays a large role in the existing Town Plan, but may be less significant at present than it was four or five years ago. Nonetheless, Abigail Beck and Bill Pennebaker both remarked that the town must plan for growth, even if there is little to no growth at present. Several people offered evidence demonstrating that the rate of growth has declined.

A phrase with respect to the need to align the bylaws with the Town Plan was suggested as an addition to the document.

JoAnn Race asked about surveying the residents re the goals stated in the Town Plan. That question sparked an extended discussion. Tyler Yandow offered to share a survey he had recently designed for the town of Dorset; Jeri Schoof mentioned a

similar survey conducted in Rupert. Mechanisms for distribution and collecting replies were discussed – for instance, making paper copies available at the town meeting and on voting day, as well as posting the survey on the town's website. A questionnaire was designed based primarily on the Dorset model; David Spurr volunteered to create and circulate an electronic version to members this week.

The discussion returned to revising the existing Town Plan text. Additions and changes were proposed for several sections of Chapter 2, including a sentence with respect to the operation of the transfer station consistent with state regulations on composting; the need to maintain and enhance recreational opportunities; the possibility that educational districts may need to be redrawn given the situation in North Bennington where an independent school may replace the existing public school.

Given the hour, Chris Williams suggested returning to the Town Plan at the next meeting.

5. Minor Act 250 application

As an abutting town, Shaftsbury has been informed of TAM's application for a composting operation at the Bennington Transfer Station. Some concern was expressed about the possible sale of commercially produced compost in Shaftsbury itself, for which a permit amendment would be required. Tyler Yandow will follow up with TAM to ask about this possibility.

6. Adjournment

Motion. To adjourn the meeting. Moved by David Spurr; seconded by Bill Pennebaker. Carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Mangsen
(Recording Clerk)