

## Shaftsbury Planning Commission

July 26, 2023

In person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

### 1. Call to order

The meeting came to order at 6:04 p.m. Present were commissioners Naomi Miller (chair), Mike Foley, Nancy Burns, and Chris Williams. Also present was zoning administrator Shelly Stiles.

### 2. Approval of minutes

Mr. Foley moved to approve the July 12 minutes. Ms. Burns seconded the motion. Mr. Williams asked that the phrase "35,000MWh" be changed to "33,500 MWh." The amended minutes passed 4-0-0.

### 3. Public comments

There were none.

Mr. Williams reported that he attended the PUC hearing on the Shaftsbury Solar project held at the high school on July 21. He said it a lively but respectful gathering. He said thirty people spoke in opposition to, one in favor of the project.

### 4. PC recommendation to Select Board re Shaftsbury Solar

The members discussed Mr. Williams's draft and Ms. Stiles's version of that draft. Mr. Foley moved to accept the Stiles version. Ms. Burns seconded the motion.

Upon discussion, Mr. Foley said he couldn't vote to approve the project after learning that the PUC had denied an application for a small solar farm, supported by the Town of Manchester, for "aesthetic reasons." Ms. Burns disagreed with the request for a 5% discount for Shaftsbury rate payers, saying there were many other possible incentive options, some more likely, and that they shouldn't be ignored. Instead, the sponsoring company should be required to do something significant to benefit the town's residents.

The draft letter was amended to include those and other comments made during the discussion. The letter is incorporated in these minutes.

The motion to adopt the draft letter passed 3-1-0, with Mr. Foley vote "no."

### 5. Town energy committee, status of EEP

Ms. Miller asked to change the order in which the two items were addressed.

She reported that Janet Hurley at BCRC said the on-line survey on an enhanced energy plan got ninety-nine responses. No solid recommendations emerged from the survey. In fact every response was equivocal, except that the town should appoint an official energy committee.

Ms. Miller said she'd once attended a presentation by former BCRC executive director Jim Sullivan about designing an energy committee mission statement with teeth. Ms. Stiles will try to track it down. It was agreed the energy committee could be tasked with pursuing Town Plan goals and assessing the extent to which they were met.

### 6. Other business

Mr. Foley moved to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. Ms. Burns seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

See [Attachment A](#)

See [Letter to Select Board](#)