

**Southern Windsor County  
Regional Planning Commission**

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Minutes of Monday, July 15, 2019  
Martin Memorial Hall, Ascutney, VT

**Commissioners Present:** Joe Wilson, Springfield; Kathy Rondeau, Reading; Tom Bock, Chester; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Etienne Ting, Cavendish; Joe Fromberger, Andover; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor; Peter Daniels, Weathersfield.

**Staff Present:** Tom Kennedy, Jason Rasmussen, Chris Titus, Cynthia Porter.

**Others Present:** Kevin McCollister, Tom Yennerell, Renee Vondle.

Joe Wilson opened the meeting at 12:01 PM.

1. Changes to the Agenda
  - a. Agenda item 5 was moved to the beginning of the agenda.
2. Adopt Resolution for the Purchase of the Ascutney Professional Building
  - a. Tom Kennedy reviewed the Resolution that approves the purchase of the building and authorizes the Executive Director to execute the necessary paperwork on behalf of the Executive Committee. It was prepared by our attorney.
  - b. *Peter Daniels made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented. Second by Tom Bock. Joe Fromberger voted no. Motion passed.*
3. Preferred Site Letter for 25 Ridgewood Road Solar in Springfield
  - a. Jason Rasmussen reported that Catamount Solar has asked for an after-the-fact preferred site letter for the 500 kW solar project located adjacent to the Springfield Hospital. Kevin McCollister, Catamount Solar, presented the request and answered questions. The applicant had met with the RPC, town and neighbors a couple of years ago. The PUC approved this project and issued a Certificate of Public Good (Case Number 18-2611-NMP). No issues were raised by the RPC, town or abutters during the PUC process. At this point, the project could be constructed now. However, the applicant is asking for a preferred site letter in order to accommodate a different buyer of the power. (See the letter included in the agenda packet for more detail.) The project received preferred site status in the CPG as it is located adjacent to the primary buyer. With Springfield Hospital's bankruptcy, the project's investor is looking for another buyer. Therefore, a preferred site letter is now required in order to amend the CPG. Kevin indicated that no other changes to the project are proposed.
  - b. Jason Rasmussen noted that neither the Springfield Planning Commission nor Selectboard have met yet to consider this request. Since the Board usually does not meet in August, we added this to the July agenda so the developer does not need to wait too long. Tom Kennedy noted that the town's preferred site criteria are different and the RPC does not follow the local criteria. There do not appear

to be any issues with the constraints identified in the Regional Plan, and the project has already been approved by the PUC.

- c. *Tom Bock made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign a preferred site letter for Catamount Solar's 500 kW solar project at 25 Ridgewood Road in Springfield. Second by Peter Daniels. Kathy Rondeau voted no. Motion passed.*
4. Secretary's Report
  - a. *Tom Kenyon made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2019 meeting. Second by Wayne Wheelock. Motion passed.*
5. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Cynthia Porter reviewed the Treasurer's Report, noting that it is a draft pending audit and accounts receivable. Cynthia and Tom Kennedy noted, with the latest information, we are projecting a surplus of about \$30,000.
  - b. *Peter Daniels made a motion to accept the draft June 2019 Treasurer's Report. Second by Tom Bock. Motion passed.*
  - c. Cynthia Porter indicated that the audit is scheduled for the third week of August.
6. Scheduling Hearing for Andover Energy Compliance Determination
  - a. Jason Rasmussen reported that the RPC received a request from Andover for an energy compliance determination. We missed our opportunity to schedule the hearing in July. The Board usually does not meet in August. Joe Fromberger indicated that it is acceptable for Andover to schedule the hearing in September.
7. Updates
  - a. Jason Rasmussen reported that the PUC is holding a hearing on the Juniper Hill solar project on July 18<sup>th</sup>. The RPC signed a preferred site letter for the project in 2017. An application is now being reviewed by the PUC. The developer, Norwich Technologies, has contacted us. They had redesigned the project in order to accommodate a future housing project along the roadway and water/sewer lines. The town is preparing a letter that explains this in more detail. No issues were raised by the RPC, town, ANR or other entity through the PUC process. However, now they scheduled a hearing to get input on tree clearing. The Board agreed to wait until after the hearing to see if the PUC or developer is asking for any particular input from the RPC.
8. Old Business
  - a. None.
9. Adjourn

*Joe Fromberger made a motion to adjourn at 1:15 p.m. Kathy Rondeau seconded. Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Jason Rasmussen