

## **Shaftsbury Planning Commission (PC)**

Wednesday December 13, 2023

In person at Cole Hall and remotely via Zoom

### 1) Call to order

The meeting came to order at 6:05 p.m. Present were commissioners Naomi Miller (chair), Mike Foley, Nancy Burns, and via Zoom, Martha Cornwell. Chris Williams arrived a little later. Also present was zoning administrator Shelly Stiles and, via Zoom, citizens Michael Albus and Kit Ausschnitt. Ms. Cornwell announced her retirement from the PC, effective that evening.

### 2) Approval of minutes

Mr. Foley moved to approve the October 5 minutes. Ms. Burns seconded the motion, which passed 4-0-0.

### 3) Public comments

There were none.

### 4) Discussion, enhanced energy plan (EEP), wind and energy committee components

Ms. Miller read the draft screening ordinance aloud. In answer to a question, she said the ordinance cannot simply be adopted as part of the EEP but must go through the regular ordinance hearing process. Mr. Albus asked about commenting on the ordinance. Ms. Miller assured him the Select Board hearings would provide opportunities for comment. Mr. Albus asked that "gateway views" be defined. In answer to his question, Ms. Cornwell said the PC had declined to list "preferred sites" because public comment indicated that size was a more important issue for citizens. Mr. Ausschnitt also asked that "gateway views" be defined. In answer to his question, Ms. Miller said if a site couldn't be screened, the proposed ordinance would prevent its development.

The PC turned to a discussion of wind. It was noted that it should be fairly easy to meet the state's goal of 2.3 MW by 2050 without resorting to large turbines or large wind farms. There are few appropriate locations for such facilities in Shaftsbury in any case; they include the cobbles near Holy Smoke Road, where the large solar farm is proposed. It was agreed that supporting wind in those locations would be "pouring salt in the wound." It would also not meet Ms. Burns's requirement that the facility be aesthetically pleasing.

The PC agreed it needed to learn more about noise, energy production, setbacks, micro-wind farms, and other issues related to wind. Mr. Foley moved to develop language for the EEP that would limit the size of wind turbines in Shaftsbury and specify the maximum size of potential community wind projects. Ms. Burns seconded the motion, which passed 3-0-1, with Mr. Williams voting no.

The PC turned to a discussion of the creation of an energy committee. For the next meeting, Mr. Williams will devise a draft set of qualifications for membership on the committee.

Ms. Burns moved to adopt the screening ordinance as amended, with one of the instances of the use of "deceased" replaced with "diseased". Mr. Foley seconded the motion, which passed 3-1-0, with Mr. Williams abstaining.

### 5) Other business

The next meeting will be held January 10.

Ms. Burns moved to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Foley seconded the motion, which passed by acclamation.