

Hillsboro Energy Commission Approved Minutes
November 12th, 2020; **Bolded items are things to-do**

Meeting opened at 6:07 PM

In attendance: Brett Cherrington, Chairman; Sue Durling; Jon Daley; Adam Charrette; Planning Director Robyn Payson

Robyn was invited to the meeting to answer some of our questions.

Dark Sky Ordinance (2022)

Robyn explained some differences between an ordinance (can be more extensive and has to be approved by the town) and the site plan regulations (planning board can put into effect, but are more limited).

The Planning Board is working on changing the site plan regulations now and are looking to get the ordinance written for 2022's town meeting. They are planning on having the ordinance have a 10-year grandfathered clause, where all properties that are allowed to be grandfathered under the old rules would need to come into compliance within 10 years.

Solar Ordinance (2021)

It is aimed at large scale installations. Regular residential installations will not be hindered and will be able to continue as before. Large scale installations would have to do a site plan.

Robyn specifically mentioned that "abandonment" is one item they are working on to deal with end-of-life issues.

Wind Farm Ordinance (2021)

We have a small scale ordinance, they working on an ordinance for large scale installations.

They are basing it on Canaan's ordinance.

Net Zero Ordinance

Brett asked if the Planning Board has thought about a net zero requirements for new construction both commercial and residential. It has been mentioned, but there aren't any plans. Robyn suggested that we come to the Planning Board the meeting after town meeting, when they will be setting priorities for the next year. **We need to plan for that meeting.** Jon will put it on the calendar to remind us in February.

Enforcement of Site Plans

Following-up on our discussion from last meeting, we asked Robyn how enforcement works of Planning Board decisions, like Site Plans, etc. She stated the usual process is that the issue is brought to the attention of the Building Inspector by a member of the public and he investigates and works with Planning Director. She said that the Planning Board does a good job enforcing issues prior to the project completion, but it might be a good idea to have a subsequent or follow-up visit to check for continued compliance. A few businesses were specifically mentioned and the Planning Board/Inspector had followed up with them to fix those issues. The school sign that doesn't meet the existing dark sky regulations was mentioned and unfortunately, they are exempt from town regulations.

Robyn was thanked for all of her information and she left the meeting.

Secretary's report: Deferred to the next meeting since the minutes arrived so late.

Energy Star Portfolio Manager Software

Sue has been entering data and Rick from Eversource has been working with her, but some data got entered incorrectly and Rick needed someone else's help to fix the problem. They are hoping that it will be fixed tomorrow.

Outside lighting will have to be entered manually.

Electric vehicle charge station

There was a Union Leader article that is behind a paywall for subscribers, but the article looks interesting.

https://www.unionleader.com/news/business/transportation/no-charge-more-electric-vehicle-charging-stations-coming-to-a-highway-near-you/article_8ab6f645-e8b1-5ff0-b52f-38a900e40fce.html

Sue also found an article about Lebanon's difficulties in getting funding from the grant. Apparently, it is hard to get all of the information and checkboxes checked off; even when one thinks they know what needs to be done, items can be missed.

She found out the fund is run through DOT, but not sure what the next step is.

Brett will check with a friend from DES who he knows at least used to know about such things.

Street Light Presentation

Adam presented the slides he has done for Dark Sky presentation for the selectmen. The board had a few suggestions, but agreed that it is ready for them. We chose the December 9th meeting to meet with the Selectmen and present it, and ask them to consider funding the LED light project for the 2021 budget/warrant.

Building Efficiency

No update.

We will skip our meetings on Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve.

Next meeting: December 9th, 6:00PM with the Selectmen and then our regularly scheduled meeting on December 10th, 6:00PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Daley