

**BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
BENNINGTON TOWN OFFICE – CONFERENCE ROOM
205 SOUTH STREET
BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 05, 2015

MINUTES

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Jacobs – Chair; John McFadden -Vice Chair; Sharyn Brush; Michael Keane; Jim Carroll; Justin Corcoran; Donald Campbell

Absent: None

ALSO PRESENT: Dan Monks, Zoning Administrator & Assistant Town Manager; Michael Harrington, Community Development Director; Bennington Banner; Linda E. Bermudez – Secretary; (4) Citizens

At 6:00 P.M., **Tom Jacobs** called the meeting to order.

1. TOWN PLAN HEARING

Tom Jacobs stated this was the first of two required hearings. At the open meeting on September 14, 2015 the Board voted to accept the Town Plan presented with (1) zoning change. This would be to the property formerly known as “Johnson Controls”. This change has been warned as required. Mr. Jacobs noted a few pages where the change is referenced within the document. He then opened the discussion up for comment.

Mike Bethel stated the current owner is very pleased with the change and will work with the Town regarding access to the railroad tracks if they were needed.

2. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Jacobs noted he received a copy of Rutland’s Planning Commission document related to Renewable Energy. He would like to organize a subcommittee to review it in depth and perhaps use it as a tool when developing our own renewable energy ordinance.

Mary Morrissey and Rick Carroll continued the discussion regarding renewable energy. Ms. Morrissey feels the Select Board needs to move fast. It was noted that each meter tied to a renewable energy source (whether its solar or hydro) could only benefit from one project. They cannot be conjoined.

Jim Carroll asked if the Town’s loan program could be made so that small business owners or homeowners could install solar on their properties. Mike Harrington stated at this time it cannot. However the Select Board could change this.

Ms. Morrissey asked when the Select Board would be developing and reviewing a Renewable Energy Ordinance. Tom Jacobs stated he believed one could be ready for review on the October 26th, 2015.

John McFadden stated he would like to continue the discussion regarding the former Middle School on a future agenda.

Michael Keane asked about the Manager's appraisal. Mr. Jacobs stated he would be setting the next agenda tomorrow. He expects to set a shorter than usual agenda for October 12, 2015 so the Board may finish the Manager's appraisal in Executive Session.

Mary Garish (citizen) stated that she and others she has spoken with would like to see more alternatives for the former Middle School discussed.

Motion: Sharyn Brush moved and Michael Keane seconded a motion to close the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda E. Bermudez
Secretary