

## Notes from

October 5, 2016

### Comprehensive Plan Update Committee

#### To Do List

*Sandra: invite the Boards and Fire Department to the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

*Sandra to order stationery supplies for the event.*

*Justin to finish his presentation*

*Kris and Justin prepare updates to the Town Board for their meeting on October 11.*

*Justin: to place poster at the transfer station.*

*All on the refreshment lists to prepare their treats for the event.*

**Present:** Joann Rogers, Kris Monzel, Liz and Ron Smith, Cat Cohen, Justin Steinbach, Dave Parsons, Sandra Riker, and Bob Green

**Updates and Discussion:** Bob Green advised the group the Town Board is considering solar energy for the town facilities including the town hall, garages, library, and fire department. At this time Bob Raeman through the company he works for will be taking the data of kilowatts and cost for the past 12 months for a study. Mr. Green went on to say there have been other businesses in the town that have looked at solar as an option for energy and found it to be cost prohibitive. The City of Canandaigua to date has invested approximately \$300,000 in the process of obtaining solar energy for their use.

The Town Board did provide a directive for the Planning Board as to how the Town Board would like to see the PB proceed with establishing a standalone renewable energy law with an emphasis on solar. It is:

Bristol Town Board

September 12, 2016

Directive to Planning Board regarding Renewable Energy with an Emphasis on Solar and Wind:

Given the ever-changing forward moving push from NYS to provide solar to as much of the State as it can by the year 2030 (50% solar energy by 2030, as of 2016 we are 30% on target), Patti Giordano has asked that the Planning Board be given a written directive from the Town Board indicating direction and timeline to provide PB recommendations on energy for the town of Bristol:

Would the Town Board prefer that the PB:

- Continue to address only the solar component of sustainable energy by recommending updates to local zoning?
- Update the Local Law on towers, wind from 2007 to include solar both minor and major installations and take the time to update the information regarding towers and wind
- Draft a stand-alone Energy Plan regarding Wind and Solar that could later act as a directive for both the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Regulations
- Other combinations of the above?

The rapidly changing landscape of sustainable energy in addition to the more aggressive stance from New York State makes it unclear to me what our final output should be.

The Town Board discussed the above request at the September 12, 2016 meeting of the Town Board and at that time a consensus was achieved that the Town Board would like to see the Planning Board proceed in

drafting a stand-alone Energy Plan with the emphasis on Solar and later amending to add Wind. This could be a directive for both the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Regulations.

The documents should include:

- Solar Collectors and installations for Minor Systems
  - Residential
    - Rooftop and building mounted systems
    - Ground Mounted Systems
  
- Solar Collectors and Installations for Major Systems or Solar Farms
  - Site Plan requirements
  - Areas of potential sensitivity both historic and cultural
  - Areas of the Town where permitted
  - Design Standards
  - Signage
  - Abandonment
  - Guidance for Removal

The Town Board would like to see this document a priority for the Planning Board and they should take the opportunity to use additional meeting dates as workshops for this project. Mr. Green added the budget for next year is allowing an additional 12 meetings for the planning board to provide extra time to focus on the standalone law. Joann mentioned a chemistry major who works with her at the USDA has expressed environmental concerns for solar panels and their composition. The Town Attorney has also raised the same concerns and suggests that any law or zoning regulations drafted should include the how and wherefores for proper disposal of the panels at the end of their usefulness.

Kris raised the question what will be the Comp. Committee charge for adding solar and renewable energy to the updated Comprehensive Plan. It was suggested that another chapter could be added to the updated Plan to include renewal energy including solar. This group would be looking at the concept from the 30,000 foot level and working on goals and action items.

**October 26 meeting:** Liz shared a refreshment signup sheet for the group.

**Draft overview presentation-**The group commented on what a great job Justin has done with this so far but suggested that it needs to be pared down both in time of presentation and content.

Depending on the number of attendees the group will be broken up into smaller groups so the committee members can interact with them and ask three questions:

- 1. Why should I care about a Comprehensive Plan?**
- 2. What are the biggest issues facing the town today?**
- 3. What would make Bristol even better than it is now?**

After obtaining answers from the residents present the Facilitator (Kris) will ask for the groups to come back together so the results of question number 3 can be shared. This will provide a basis for the committee to draft a survey to gather additional comments from the community at large.

A decision was not made if comment cards would be provided for residents who did not wish to stay for the group sessions but could still share their thoughts.

The Committee would like to have as many people as possible notified by email i.e. local businesses, town boards, highway personnel, etc. They will also be distributing the printed flyers at the Town Hall, Library, Fire Department, the United Church of Bristol and any other public places that we can share the date of the event. A poster will be put up at the Transfer Station on County Road 2 advising the public of the event as well.

**Continue Review of Current Comprehensive Plan will be looked at a later date.**

**Announcements:** Liz thanked any and all of the Group who helped with the Library's Walk last weekend. She said they netted somewhere around \$2200 and are looking forward to making it an annual event.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sandra Riker*

Town of Bristol

Planning and ZBA Secretary

DRAFT