

**Town of Charleston Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes for Public Meeting on March 10, 2016**

Members Attending: John Kellogg, Chair
 Dean Bennett, Member
 Jayson Benoit, Clerk
 Blair Moulton, Member

Members Unable to Attend: Eleanor Leger, Member

Town Residents:
Diana Marckwardt, Solar Subcommittee Member

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Chair John Kellogg. Minutes of the December 10, 2015 meeting of the Planning Commission were read, and a motion was made by Dean Bennett to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Blair Moulton and passed unanimously.

Under Old Business, Planning Commission Solar Subcommittee member Diana Marckwardt offered an update on the solar project that was approved by voters at the March 2016 Town Meeting. The project will construct a 118.5 kW ground-mounted solar array in the town gravel pit on Ten Mile Square Road to generate power to offset electricity costs of the school, town offices, town garage, fire department, and streetlights. In her update to the Planning Commission, Ms. Marckwardt reported that the solar project will be scheduled for 2017 because Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC) has reached its 15% cap for renewable energy for 2016. Ms. Marckwardt also said that federal and state grant funding is being pursued to help cover the cost of the project. Oversight of the installation and regulatory process, and the ongoing operation of the solar array, will be managed by members of the Solar Subcommittee, who will report periodically to the town Planning Commission and Selectboard. A site visit to the town gravel pit by members of the Solar Subcommittee is being scheduled to kick-off planning for the 2017 installation.

Also under New Business, Mr. Benoit said that the state Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) is launching a program to establish a buffer zone of public land along the Clyde River. Mr. Benoit said he believed that some town residences may soon be contacted by ANR to ask about their interest in selling land adjacent to the river.

Seeing that there was other business before the Commission, Mr. Benoit made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bennett and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm. The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be held at 6:00 pm on June 9, 2016 at the Town Office.

Minutes Accepted on June 9, 2016 by:

John Kellogg, Chair

Jason Benoit, Clerk