

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
1 FENN STREET, SUITE 201, PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01201
TELEPHONE (413) 442-1521 · FAX (413) 442-1523
Massachusetts Relay Service: TTY: 771 or 1-800-439-2370
www.berkshireplanning.org

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NATHANIEL W. KARNIS, A.I.C.P.
Executive Director

March 16, 2017 at 5:45 pm
Minutes March 16, 2017 APPROVED

Attendees: Sarah Hudson, Kyle Hanlon, John Duval, CJ Hoss
Staff: Tom Matuszko

1. Minutes from January 19, 2017 – The minute the meeting of January 19, 2017 were unanimously approved.
2. Nominating Committee – Sarah Hudson and CJ Hoss volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee. Tom will contact Rene to determine if she is interested. Tom will set up a meeting.
3. 5th Thursday dinners – FY 2017:
 - March 30, 2017 – Tom reported that 25 people had signed up already for the stormwater session to be held at the Pittsfield Country Club.
 - June 29, 2017 – Tom reported that Mazzeo’s has been secured for the June meeting. Tom has not secured a speaker yet. The topic was re-affirmed as large scale solar.
 - August 31, 2017 (This date is being held in reserve in case a meeting is necessary.)
 - November 30, 2017 – A suggestion was made that Emily Stockman be considered as a speaker and speak about culvert replacement and stream crossing standards. This topic might not draw the usual Planning Board attendees, but could draw DPWs, Selectmen and Conservation Commissions. The preferred location is Cork N’ Hearth
 - Other topic for future consideration – Tiny Houses
4. Other Training – New Planning Board Member training – July. The Committee agreed this should continue this year again. Tom will pursue, most likely on a Thursday evening / night.
5. Training Topics for Commission Meetings – The Committee reiterated that the topic for the May 18th meeting would be Pittsfield’s Styrofoam / plastic bag ban and lessons learned. Tom will follow-up with Jim McGrath and Gina Armstrong from the City.
6. Annual Meeting - Tom reported that the Pittsfield County Club had been reserved for October 19, 2017. Tom provided some information about attendance, speakers and topics. Attendance in the 80 – 90 range is somewhat typical, with some years’ attendance in the 50 & 60s. Last year(low attendance)may have been an anomaly related to changing the date. The legislators

were not big draws. Tom also reported that he has been in contact with a representative from the Selectman's Association to avoid meetings occurring on the same night. The sense of the committee was that it was good to continue to hold an annual meeting, with a similar format to previous ones. Some thoughts about the topic / speaker were to bring in a successful business owner(s) (GD) (BMC) – what makes for success. A presentation about a successful business(s) could also incorporate data about an increase in millennials in Pittsfield. Another suggestion was Michael Daly. The topic should stress the positive attributes of Berkshire County that attract or retain millennials.

7. Other Items – There were no other items
8. Next Meeting – May 18th at 5:45
9. Adjournment