

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
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KYLE HANLON, Chair
SHEILA IRVIN, Vice-Chair
MARIE RAFTERY, Clerk
CHARLES P. OGDEN, Treasurer

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

Minutes May 18, 2017 at 5:45 pm
At Lenox Town Hall

Attendees: Sarah Hudson, Kyle Hanlon, Rene Wood, CJ Hoss
Staff: Tom Matuszko, Marianne Sniezek

1. Minutes from March 16, 2017 – The minutes from the meeting of March 16, 2017 were unanimously approved.
2. Nominating Committee – The same slate of officers have agreed to remain.
3. 5th Thursday dinners – FY 2017:
 - March 30, 2017 – De-brief – CJ reported on the Stormwater session at the Pittsfield Country Club. Overall CJ felt he did not learn new information but thought others did learn information. The training did get people to think about things. The food was good and the space was good.
 - June 29, 2017
 - Topic – Large Scale Solar
 - Speaker – Beth Greenblatt, Managing Director, Beacon Integrated Solutions
 - Location – Mazzeo's

There was a discussion about the presentation.

Possible topics:

- Ask the consultant about the top 5 issues she sees for municipalities.
- Provide guidance to municipalities about where to start.
- What are the minimum siting requirements or considerations for a large scale solar, i.e. access to 3 phases. More information about the incentives that encourage brownfield or greyfield and discourages greenfield development. Relationship with the utility company
- What should be in a bylaw? Are there unique provisions that towns have used? What is legitimate / allowable regarding land use controls / zoning?
- What locations should be considered and not considered?
- How to diffuse neighborhood opposition?
- What are the current subsidies or incentives for municipalities?
- Try to use case examples.

- August 31, 2017 - This date is being held in reserve in case a meeting is necessary for Zoning reform with Larry Field as a possible speaker or Recreational Marijuana with Ray Miyares as the speaker.
 - 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 for the next Commission meeting. September meeting update on Zoning Reform.
 6. Annual Meeting - Tom reported that the Pittsfield County Club had been reserved for October 19, 2017. Agreed 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. Yes, to a Kusik award, then the state of the Commission, the presentation. Appetizers on the tables, a break, buffet dinner, then the presentation and last dessert was the most effective way to keep the meeting on time and moving.

Speaker Choices:

- First: Thomas Kren's
- Second: Two or three business owners - Sal Perry from Greylock Works and Steve Sears from the Dalton Brewery
- Third: Possible developers on repurposing of buildings - Allegrone, Ian Rauch from Railroad Street Gt. Barrington

Some other 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 – Rene asked Kyle to take her off as the Chair of the Committee for FY 18.
8. Next Meeting – Summer or September at 6 pm.
9. Adjournment