

## Sept 23, 2022 Community Outreach Night joint SB and PB 7 PM MINUTES

Started 7:02 PM.

Barb introduces: Boards here to listen. React at end of mtg. Please address the panel not each other and do not criticize other ideas but offer your ideas.

Channel 3 news: Fossil fuels featured. Some had brought it up so is first topic tonight. David Hubbard, Dodd Road. Thrilled calling meeting. What would we like to focus on: He served on many committees as volunteer. Establishing a governing system and culture that supports and facilitates long term planning. Town made a plan in 2016. Most problems due to lack of planning. Spent \$50K on consultants. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission brought in to make professional. State required the plan. Finance, Strategic planning. Multiple town meetings, lots of collated info. Knew answer. Report published Action plan, tasks, priority lists. PB gave to SB, expectation was it would get done. Ignored, buried or sabotaged. Drainage and base of roads. \$10's of millions. Needs LT plan. 12-18" mud in freeze thaw cycles. Culture, system, respect for plan for successive. Zoning, soil based zoning, impacts, whole package.

Steve Rubenstein. Appreciates David's input. Topic is fossil fuels. On way out acc to David Hubbard. Phase out in new construction? Kathy: what is question? Town vehicles? Home furnaces? New units? New construction with heat pumps? Bill Haines: small town. Don't have 3 phase power, large scale solar hard to do therefore. Follow not lead. Remote place. Anina Carr: Green Committee – 2 major projects. Solar panels on HWY garage and annex. Heat pump at town hall in process. Will save \$ and reduce. Let technology (?). Sonia Gray: agrees that fossil fuels are on way out, wait and take lead from Boston. Pam Allen – PT resident. Additional property. If not allowed will price people out. Carl: Bylaws one-off and lot of effort. We need Master plan, bylaws get you to implement that plan. Fossil fuels: what are unintended consequences. Does not want to be guinea pig, let other towns do that. Elizabeth Orenstein: could not build without fossil fuels. Jaye: What about 7 generations? We need to think of the future, not just now. Melissa Bye: Grants paid for infrastructure Anina talked about. Are there grants? Patricia Hubbard: solar and heat pumps is not cutting edge. Incentives for people who want to help the future. Bill H: Tax incentive? What are capabilities of town for non-carbon energy. 3 phase power: what would it take to get that? Someone comments that heat pump good to 20 degrees, not below (others later refuted that claim saying the work at lower temps). Bridget: idealistic. 10 years from now. Other issues more important. Dire situation with lack of ems calls. Depend on other towns. Affordable housing. Bob Tirasuk: wish we didn't have to have them. Manages forest land to offset climate change. Too idealistic. Other person comments: Grant for 3 phase? Rubenstein: Leases. Adam Manaker: work on bylaw about fossil fuels? 5 said 3-5 yrs bylaw. Most drop it.

Dark Sky: Leavenworth: What are we looking to do? Francis Mitia: All night lights affect your property. Kathy Honig: From Salt Lake City. No dark skies there. Uplighting and all night ruins sky there. Ally Marks, Lower WEST. Large commercial want security (cannabis). How affects neighbors and wildlife. Bill Haines: It's about right kind of light. Appropriate to regulate. Without it anything goes. Carl: doesn't want color temperature dictated. Jaye: improves property values and helps wildlife. ??-can't see roads. Motion detectors ok. Kathy Jacobs: bylaw is wonderful but enforcement? Hire a town employee? Pam allen: PT resident. Town has to redo its lighting and costs money. Would raise taxes. Common sense lighting. Bob F. Bob T: broke down once in New Marlborough, no cell service, dark as

no streetlights. Scary situation. Adam Manaker: Struggle with residential and business issue. Need more business. Interested in commercially oriented bylaw. Rita K: Reflectors along road. Carl: could come up with reasonable bylaw. Lots of effort. Lots of issues. Doesn't see it as an issue to warrant that much effort. Larry Dwyer: Replacing street lights with down light and fully shielded. 3 immed, 9 3-5 yrs, 15 not at all except commercial.

Short term rentals: 30 days and under. Sonia Gray. Supports them. Help everyone. Bob: some of us need to pay taxes and keep afloat. Pam Allen: supports them. Owns land and can't do job and live here FT. Multiple houses to make affordable. Guidelines to do appropriately. Income to the town. Q: how does town get tax money? Barb: 6% taxes to state. Town could piggyback. Pam: also more building means more taxes. Sue Tirasuk: rentals show up all over her area. Lives between 3 airbnb's. Town doesn't make money off it. Anina: coming here since 79. Raised 2 sons here. Having large number of ST rentals will change character of town. Lose affordable housing. Not a resort community. Bridget knows little. Collateral issues: more services expenses, Ems. Pam: tax Elizabeth: have several airbnb's on her road. Cathy: enforcement. Bylaw should cover health issue. Owner should have to be on the property as stated at PB mtg. (referring to ADU). Jaye: Airbnb happening. Willard Platt: 3<sup>rd</sup> gen property owner. Legal, here to stay. Should tax. Already registered with state. Easy to piggyback a tax. ? on Town hill rd. 2<sup>nd</sup> home owners. Supplement with Airbnb. Legal in MA. Registered with state. Reduce viability as Sandisfield is marginal in location. Will move to towns without tax. Sonia: useful for families visiting. Appreciates concern it could turn into people out of town buying houses and becoming a hollow or resort community.

Work on it immed: 20, 3-5 yrs 5. Disregard: 1.

Barb: At next meeting, do you want to discuss Business and village zoning? Old bylaws: camping bylaw. Market town for future meeting?

Elizabeth: safety, EMS person,

Gina Colelli: Master Plan be revitalized and brought to town as Mr. Hubbard said.

Carl Nett: do we want development or not? Some want no change ever. Others think we will collapse without it.

Safety and future of dirt roads.

Review master plan. She was chair. Needs to be revised every few years.