

MINUTES OF THE NORTH HERO PLANNING COMMISSION
Thursday, February 7, 2019

Present: Bob Ayers, Ben Joseph (Chair), Diana Meehan, Richard Mitchell, Chip Porter (acting Secretary) Absent: David Jacobs, Marie Kilbride
Guests: Taylor Newton (NRPC), Stephen Ludwig

- A. New Agenda Items/ New Business/ Guests- Taylor Newton of the NWRPC
- B. Welcome new Planning Commission Member, Diana Meehan
- C. Communications- Town Report
- D. Taylor Newton of the NWRPC

Taylor opened by saying that although this meeting fulfilled an obligation of the Regional Planning Commission, that he was here to begin work on help in completion of a Town Plan to be completed by June of 2020.

He presented several goals which he thought we should address in the new plan. They include: child care, natural resource extraction, and storm water. Since our bylaws include comprehensive regulations of extraction and storm water management, perhaps what is needed is to relate them to specific Plan goals. We also briefly discussed capital planning and assessment of infrastructure needs.

He also mentioned Enhanced Energy Planning. The benefit of developing such a plan allows the Town to change from the status of current input from "due consideration" to "substantial deference". We did not discuss this Planning.

This did raise two discussion points, both of which were issues which concerned actions on which could address energy related mitigation. One was a question from Stephen Ludwig which was why there are no electric automobile charging stations. Taylor advised him that there were grants to install such stations, perhaps at the Town Office or the State Park.

Ben Joseph discussed the Town proposed 5mg solar installation, and his frustration with stated State goals of energy independence and the Town's inability to implement the project. Taylor said that he had been reviewing a number of proposals, but that the numbers had dropped off. The problem was not policy but rules, the low capacity of the grid, and contractual obligations to purchase power, largely from Hydro Quebec. Implicit in the discussion was not that Energy Planning was unimportant, but that since the Town's inability to implement actual steps on energy considerations, long range planning seemed moot.

- E. Work on Commercial and Building Site bylaws was tabled. The next meeting was scheduled for April 25. Taylor will plan to attend. The Board adjourned the meeting at 4:30.

copy: Town Clerk, Bob Ayers, Jim Blandino

