

Minutes of Franklin Planning Commission
Tuesday, January 20, 2015
Homestead Dining Room

Members Present: Dave Bennion, Judith McLaughlin, Peter Kittell, Roland Rainville, Greg Bouchard, Clark Hubbard

Others: Maureen Sodaro, Secretary

Guests: Bill Mayo, Corey Decker (Suncommon)

Meeting called to order at 7:35.

Minutes: Peter made a motion to approve the December minutes, seconded by Clark. The minutes were approved by all.

Mail Folder – there was no mail folder.

Old Business: The discussion of lots for sale in Franklin and impact on school and other resources in the town continued briefly at this meeting.

New Business: Mike McCarthy from Suncommon presented information regarding Community Solar Power. He explained why communities are investing in community solar arrays. He also explained that Suncommon pays for the use of land (easement or lease). (25 years, \$66,000) Mike discussed what benefits the individuals who invest in the use of solar arrays receive. Users are guaranteed an amount of credits for power earned. Mike talked about the requirements for a good site for a solar array. Mike presented a rough illustration of what a 500 kW array would look like on a lot the size of the town land behind the salt shed. This illustration was only for the presentation, and not stating that such a project would occur on that land. He also described the process involved in the installation of the panels. There was a question by Bill Mayo of whether it is good use of farmland, and Mike explained that the panels, once removed, have not affected the land. The land can be returned to its original use. Another question was brought up by Judith regarding homeowners being able to transfer the investment or be released from being part of the program. The PC is interested in this program and how it could save the Town of Franklin money in providing power to the town buildings such as Town Clerk office, school, town garage, etc. Questions came up regarding responsibility if damage occurred to the project due to negligence or vandalism. If the Town of Franklin were to go with Suncommon, this project would be a 20 year membership for the Town of Franklin. The membership would begin with the municipality of Franklin. After that, outside membership would be sought. The PC discussed what steps could be taken next. Judith made a motion that the PC take further steps in this project by discussing the project with the three entities (Franklin Homestead/ Franklin Telephone Company/Town of Franklin) who are in control of the Homestead road and land that leads to the acreage behind the town garage. The PC will discuss a letter to the other parties regarding the PC interest in pursuing this project at the next meeting.

Other:

Member Concerns: The PC would like the Town Clerk to email the monthly meeting minutes to each member.

The next regular meeting of the Planning Commission will take place on February 17, at 7:00 pm in the Homestead Dining Room. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Peter Kittell, seconded by Roland Rainville.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
January 21, 2015
Maureen Sodaro, Secretary

Note: These minutes are not final until approved by the Planning Commission at their next regular meeting.

Minutes were approved February 17, 2015.