

## Planning Commission Agenda

Martin Memorial Hall – 5259 Route 5, Ascutney, Vermont 05030

Monday, 25 March 2019 - 7 PM

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1. Call to Order
2. Agenda Review – 25 March 2019
3. Guest speaker, Annette Smith, *Vermonters for a Clean Environment (VCE)*

Discussion on solar development in Vermont, the Public Utility Commission, Enhanced Energy Plans, the application process involved with solar and renewable energy development and other related topics. See town website for flyer.

Meeting materials included in packet also available at Town website

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes – 11 March 2019
5. Comments from Citizens
6. Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy

Review policies (provided via e-mail, physical copies available upon request) and sign acknowledgement (included in packet)

7. Zoning Bylaw Updates (time permitting)
  - (a) Minimum lot size bylaw

(b) Conservation of Natural Resources bylaw

- Agricultural zoning
- Places having unique ecological interest or value
- Connecticut River
- Pond construction
- Steep slopes and high elevation
- Streambank conservation
- Wetlands
- Damaged structures

8. Proposals for next meeting agenda

9. Adjourn

The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Planning Commission will be **Monday, 8 April 2019 - 7 PM**, Martin Memorial Hall

## **Weathersfield Planning Commission**

**Guest Speaker: Annette Smith, Vermonters for a Clean Environment**

**Monday, March 25, 7:00 PM, Martin Memorial Hall**

The Weathersfield Planning Commission is pleased to host Annette Smith, Executive Director of Vermonters for a Clean Environment, a member of the Danby planning commission and the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, for a discussion relating to solar development in Vermont, Enhanced Energy Plans, and the role of the Public Utility Commission. Annette is Vice Chair of the Regional Committee tasked with review of Act 250 and Section 248 applications, and has assisted citizens and towns with matters before the Public Utility Commission since 2009.

Among the questions which may be considered are:

- Do you think there is a useful outcome or benefit to adopting an Enhanced Energy Plan, in particular with regard to helping towns manage the expansion of solar developments? Is there a downside to doing nothing?
- What have been the main concerns from residents and towns regarding some of these projects?
- Is there some pathway to coming up with a multi-town or regional consensus in addressing problems with the current approach taken by the PUC? Do you have any ideas as to how a common position could be developed across a set of towns or region in advocating for the State to change the process?
- Have you encountered or identified any towns which have been particularly effective in managing applications for solar or wind projects before the PUC?

While the discussion will be framed by reference to the particular impacts on Weathersfield, developments within the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission impact every community in Vermont, and the topics should be of interest to Planning Commissions, Zoning Administrators, Development Review Board members and others involved with economic development generally.

All who are interested are invited to join the Weathersfield Planning Commission on **Monday, March 25 at 7:00 PM at the Weathersfield Town Offices, Martin Memorial Hall, 5259 Route 5, Ascutney, VT 05030** to participate in the discussion.