**Town of Cavendish Planning Commission**

**Minutes for Amended Energy Chapter Hearing (not Approved)**

**February 7, 2024 6:30 PM**

**Cavendish Town Office**

**PC Members Present:** Tim Calabrese, Bruce McEnaney, Shirly Clark, Miguel Seville, Jeff Strange, Noah Schmit.

**Selectboard Liaison:** Shannon Devereux

**Members of the Public Present:**

Jason Rasmussen, MARC

OVTV: Rebecca Fontaine

Maureen Savage

Justin Savage

Tracy? *(need her last name)*

Stuart Linderg

Call Hearing to order at 6:30 PM

Tim C stated that the hearing is a repeat due to the fact that the surrounding towns were not notified as per the state statute. That issue has been resolved.

**Discussion:**

Maureen Savage questioned whether this energy chapter/town plan was attached to the State Energy Plan. Tim C said it referenced it. Jason Rasmussen: Town’s plan should be consistent with State plan but does not have to be adopted by reference

Maureen S. Is the town looking for 80 acres of land for solar? Tim C: It would be 80 acres throughout town. Jason R.: The 80 acres is a target of the state energy plan.The 80 acres could be on private or public land and is an estimate.

Maureen S. Are property owners notified about the solar maps? Tim C. No they are not. The maps are meant to show the difference in solar capability based on different criteria. Maureen S. Maps are not on the Town website. Tim C: We will get them posted

Tracy ?( Need her name) What part of town is prime solar? Tim C: Explained with map.

Maureen S: If it’s a municipal solar project how does this benefit the Town? Bruce M: The Town solar project more than covers it’s costs. Jason R: A municipal project would get the direct benefits. A private solar project could sell the credits to the town or school but every project is different.

Noah S: By adoption we will have substantial deference when it comes to energy projects in town. If we didn’t have it it could put the town at a disadvantage with proposed energy projects.

Maureen S: Does the chapter cover only solar? Tim C: No it covers all renewable energy sources.

Maureen S: How does the energy plan play into the proposed subdivision regulations? Tim C: Subdivisions that go through ACT 250 will be reviewed for energy compliance.

Maureen S: How many towns in the region have adopted this? Jason R: About 6, most towns

Maureen S: Why do we need to adopt this when we already have ACT 250? Jason R: ACT 248 projects do not need to go through ACT 250. The Dept. of PublicService sets guidelines that the plan has to address. Substantial deference will give the town more weight in applications/proceedings.

Miguel: The PC had a mandate from the Select Board to implement the Enhanced Energy Chapter into the Town Plan.

Maureen S: State already has an Energy Compliance Standard. Energy Chapter has 40K as a median household income.Solar projects for our area are in the $40K range for our area with credits. It is not affordable for many families. Enhanced Energy Chapter sends a message to the Town that you will have to comply with this and that we should be focusing more on affordable housing.

Shirley: Very good discussion, good questions.

Tim C: any other questions or comments?

Miguel made the motion to conclude the hearing. Bruce Seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Hearing ended at 7:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted By:

Tim Calabrese, Chair

March 20, 2024