

Cavendish Select Board Informational Meeting – Town Plan Energy Chapter
Monday, December 11th, 2023 at 6:00 pm, Cavendish Town Office Meeting Room and via Zoom

Present: Bob Glidden (Chairman), Mike Ripley, George Timko, Shannon Devereux, Dave Norton, Rick Chambers (Town Manager), Jen Leak (Recording Secretary), OVTV and citizens as listed on the attached sheet.

Rick said that due to a past mistake on the public notice, this will be informational meeting only and not a public hearing. Tim Calabrese was present and said the Planning Commission will notify the adjacent towns and have another hearing in February, 2024. He said that there is also a required report which he was unaware of.

Tim gave an overview of the Enhanced Energy Chapter. He said that it gives the Town some input on locating large energy installations. He said that the chapter is not legally binding but gives guidelines regarding energy use in town. Tim added that the Town has already met the 2030 energy goals.

Mike asked what the consequences were if the Town doesn't meet the goals. Tim said that he did not know if there was any accounting process or plan in place for not meeting goals. George asked how the Town has already met the 2030 goals. Tim said that he thought the Town solar installation and electric vehicle station went a long way towards meeting those goals. Stuart Lindberg asked if it was written in the chapter that it was not a legally binding document. Tim said that he didn't believe so.

Etienne Ting via Zoom asked if this chapter was adopted would we also automatically adopt the State energy plan. Tim said that he believed so. Etienne asked what "equitable distribution of energy" in the state plan meant. Tim said that he believed it meant providing efficient and affordable energy for all, providing weatherization and supporting programs for people at risk. Etienne asked who would pay for those. Tim said that he thought they would be funded by State programs.

The Board asked how progress towards reaching goals would be measured. Tim said that he thought the Board could ask the Energy Committee to conduct a survey among residents.

Rick commented that the EV charging station is no longer free and that should be changed in the chapter. Tim agreed.

Tim said that the Town Plan can always be amended and this chapter removed if it turns out the goals are unreasonable or the enforcement is draconian. He said that the Planning Commission could see this document changing as different sources of energy production are developed.

The Board thanked Tim and the Planning Commission for their work.