

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 3, 2016
AT THE JESSE SMITH LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m., Jeffrey Partington, Chairman, presiding.

Members Present: Jeffrey Partington, Mark Tremblay, Dov Pick, Leo Felice, Bruce Ferreira, Michael Lupis, Christopher Desjardins and Jeffrey Presbrey.

Members Absent: Robert Woods

Others Present: Christopher Kearns, Office of Energy Resources and Christine Langlois, Deputy Planner.

II. ATTENDANCE REVIEW:

Mr. Partington acknowledged that Mr. Woods was unavailable this evening.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the Planning Board meeting of September 12, 2016 were read. A motion to accept the minutes, as presented, was made by Mr. Ferreira, seconded by Mr. Pick and carried unanimously by the Board.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Zoning Board Notice of no meeting in October;

V. OLD BUSINESS:

Review/Discussion on Request for Amendment to Zoning Ordinance: *Section 30-211. Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations and Section 30-71. Zoning District Uses, Section 4. Public and semipublic uses: (17) Solar photovoltaic installations; (Continued from the Planning Board meeting of September 12, 2016):* Noting that the application filed contained inconsistencies with the zoning designations and the rezoning request, *a motion was made from the Chair to advise the Town Council to request the applicant withdraw the application, without prejudice, to allow the applicant the ability to file a more complete and accurate amendment request. The motion received a second from Mr. Ferreira and carried unanimously by the Board.*

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

Présentation from Christopher Kearns, Office of Energy Resources, regarding the proposed Commercial Tangible Tax Value for Commercial Renewable Energy Systems Rules & Regulations and amendments to Town Ordinances dealing with Renewable Energy: Mr. Christopher Kearns, of the Office of Energy Resources, gave a brief presentation on OER's efforts to provide an appropriate tangible tax value on renewable energy installations that receive revenue from the electric generating companies as compensation to municipalities. He noted the law provides a formula with an associated dollar value of \$5.00 in order to establish the tangible tax value of an installation based on its nameplate capacity. The municipalities may choose to implement taxation of these solar installations using this formula to generate revenue. The proposed changes are slated to take effective on January 1, 2017. Any commercial renewable energy systems either in operation, under construction, or possess an executed interconnection service agreement with an electric

distribution company as of December 31, 2016 would be "grandfathered" and considered exempt from the new regulations.

A motion was made from the Chair directing the Deputy Planner to forward a memo to the Town Council in order to enlighten them on the recent amendments enacted by the Office of Energy Resources and advise them to consider adopting language to enable the Town the ability to generate tax revenue from ground mounted solar voltaic installations in accordance with the revisions of the State Act relating to Public Utilities & Carriers – Renewable Energy. The motion received a second from Mr. Tremblay and carried unanimously by the Board.

The Board thanked Mr. Kearns for his presentation. He, in turn, offered to return to Burrillville to assist the Town in making these changes.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

Report from Administrative Officer: The Board reviewed the report from the Administrative Officer, noting that during the month of September and noted that there were no Certificates of Completeness issued, no plans rejected as incomplete and no plans were endorsed.

A motion to adjourn was then made by Mr. Ferreira at 8:10 p.m. The motion received a second from Mr. Tremblay and carried unanimously by the Board.

Recorded by: M. Christine Langlois
M. Christine Langlois, Deputy Planner