

**Town of Cavendish Public Hearing
Town Plan Enhanced Energy Chapter
Monday, April 15, 2024 6:00 pm, Cavendish Town Office Meeting Room**

The Town of Cavendish invites the public to a hearing to discuss the draft Enhanced Energy Chapter to be included in the Cavendish Town Plan. A copy of the draft Energy Chapter can be found on the Town's website www.cavendishvt.com

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

Bob Glidden called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Rick said that there had been a few questions at the earlier informational meeting, but no changes were made to the proposed Energy Chapter. Rick said that one concern was whether people would be held to the new standards. Rick said that the energy goals are not requirements, but they would give the Town more ground to stand on when energy projects are proposed in Town.

Dave asked if it could be changed at any time. Rick said that it could. George said that he would like to see it added to the Town Plan. Rick said that the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission will also hold a hearing if the Select Board adopts it before it is added to the Town Plan.

Maureen Savage was present and asked how this would benefit the members of the community and the Town. Rick said that the biggest benefit is being able to have more of a say if large energy projects come into town. Mike added that it is not binding, but it shows the State we agree with the energy goals they are trying to set.

Maureen said that she agreed with the energy goals but was concerned since several Planning Commission members had resigned over it. George said that he thought a lot of controversy was over concerns about what might happen in the future. He said that since Cavendish doesn't have zoning, he thought having it in the Town Plan allows some means of mitigating proposed projects.

Maureen asked if the Board was encouraging large solar projects, or just wanted more control over any projects that might come into town. Bob said that they wanted more control. Maureen added that not all towns in VT are adopting the State's energy standards. George wondered whether those towns already had zoning in place and said that, without zoning, the Town Plan is all Cavendish has.

George Timko moved/Mike Ripley seconded a motion to adjourn the hearing at 6:13 pm. All voted in favor.