Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
August 13, 2026

PC members present: Jamie Dayton, Chair; Gretchen Bailey, Vice-chair; Dennis Mueller; Logan Roth-Longe; Sharon Ashcraft; Kathy Kennett; Ken Sullivan (arrived late)
Others present: Jolyon Larson, Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC); Danelle Birong, ACRPC; Chuck Kennett
Administrators present: Donna Oliver, Asst. Town Clerk, scribe

1. Jamie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Dennis made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 23rd meeting. Kathy noted a spelling error in section 4.e. The first sentence should be changed to "…Town Plan and wind turbines." Gretchen then made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected; Kathy seconded. All in favor.
3. On the meeting schedule for the PC, Jamie proposed meeting twice per month for the next four months: September through December. There was some discussion about which Thursdays of the month to meet. Gretchen made a motion to meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in September and October; then meetings to be determined based on availability in November and December. Sharon seconded. All in favor.
4. Jamie then introduced our new board members just approved at the Selectboard meeting: Ken Sullivan, Sharon Ashcraft and Kathy Kennett. Ken will also be a member of the DRB. The additional help was welcomed.
5. Enhanced Energy Plan (Packet included with minutes as Appendix A):
    a. The floor was turned over to Jolyon Larson. He explained the primary focus of the energy plan and said he was developing a way to provide useful information for municipalities to access energy data on the ACRPC website.
    b. This led to discussion about why we are dealing with data that is two years old. Jamie said the current administration has made it a priority to speed things up.
    c. In reviewing the document that was provided, Kathy encouraged the ACRPC to include page numbers next time. It is difficult to find discussion points without them.
    d. Dennis also asked for a definition of the acronym LEAP (Low Emissions Analysis Platform). Jolyon explained it is a model for teasing out different geographies to adjust for emissions targets. Then energy can be given to regional areas.
    e. Dennis and Ken both expressed the belief that we cannot totally remove use of fossil fuels. We can limit its use. We want to reduce our demand for electricity with weatherization, while moving to heat pumps and wood. There was discussion about how we can get electric companies to provide interval usage readings. Jolyon said they want to protect customer

data. These bureaucratic problems make it difficult to project usage for the future. Ken encouraged more training and education for the public. This needs to be included in our plan.

f. Concerns were raised in that all of the current solar arrays in Panton are not shown on the map. Jolyon took notes based on comments by Ken, Dennis, Sharon and Kathy. These will help him update the map appropriately. There was more discussion on the constraints map which will allow us to carefully choose where and how to develop. Ken pointed out that models for smart building already exist. Obviously, we need to consider endangered species habitats, agricultural soil areas and Act 250 locations.

g. Jolyon encouraged us to have a plan that works for the next seven years and should set the stage for the future. There was some discussion about incorporating wind into our plan.

6. Jamie said he would entertain a motion to table the next agenda item on land use. Jamie made the motion, seconded by Sharon. All in favor.
7. Public comments:
    a. Kathy said she feels like we are being pushed along. We are not able to see the changes in each section. We are trying to do too much at once and there is not enough time to discuss issues.
    b. Danelle said her goal is to keep better track. She will update the work plan. Jolyon also said he would do his best to make changes transparent. However, we have to be careful about missing the deadline. We cannot have a lapse between plans. Our current plan expires in November 2027, and there is a long runway for finalizing it. There must be hearings and discussions.
    c. Danelle reported that there will be another Essentials training that will be offered hybrid on September 30. New folks should try to attend.
8. Jamie asked for motion to adjourn. Moved by Logan, seconded by Sharon at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Oliver
Asst. Town Clerk/Treasurer