

APPROVED/REVISED
MINUTES
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not a verbatim transcription.

March 19, 2019

Present

Robert Cascella
Joseph Dowdell
George Hanlon
John Katz
Charles Robbins
Catherine Savoca
Rebecca Mucchetti, Chair
Joseph Fossi, Vice Chair

Absent

Mark Zeck

Also Present: Richard Baldelli, Director, Planning and Zoning, ZEO
Daniel Robinson, Assistant Planner
Aarti Paranjape, Recording Secretary

At 7:30 P.M., Chair Mucchetti called the meeting to order. Ms. Mucchetti gave an overview of the meeting stating the purpose of the Renewable Energy public information session. She noted that the state now requires the 2020 POCD to include a sustainability section. She added that Mr. Charles Vidich, from West COG, a planner and expert in the field of Solar Energy regulations, and Mr. Dwayne Escola, a member of Ridgefield's Energy Task force will give presentations to the Commission.

Planning and Zoning Commission

Item I: General informational public comment session on Renewable Energy, including geothermal, water, solar, and wind. Commission initiated.

Mr. Marconi, First Selectman, stated that Board of Selectmen believe that regulations regarding renewable energy structures should be formulated by the Planning and Zoning as a zoning regulation. He added that the two experts Mr. Vidich and Mr. Escola will present information about renewable energy including information on structures and regulations adopted by different towns in CT.

Mr. Dwayne Escola, Member of Ridgefield's Energy Task Force, gave a presentation on Photovoltaic (PV) Solar. He explained in detail the different types of Solar panel installations and the efficiency of them in the residential and commercial setting.

Mr. Charles Vidich, West COG, discussed zoning regulations for Solar Energy construction and operation. He said that out of 167 municipalities in Connecticut, only

93 municipalities have recognized the need for zoning regulations for solar energy systems.

Mr. Vidich presented a hand-out of some of the regulations adopted by various towns in Connecticut that regulate solar energy systems. He stated that the Commission should keep in mind the specifics of different types of solar structures while reviewing possible regulations. He also added that the Commission should consider regulations to enable the newer developments/subdivisions to incorporate passive and active solar energy use, while planning these subdivisions.

Nine (9) members of the public spoke regarding the renewable energy use and the regulations.

Hearing no further discussion, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:00P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aarti Paranjape