Full Commission Meeting
July 25, 2017
Westminster Fire Department

Commissioners Present: Jodi French (Chair), Stephan Chait, Eric Stevens, Denis Pinkernell, Kevin Stine, Lew Sorenson, Roger Turner, Jack Cunningham, John Whitman, Peder Rude, Liisa Kissel, Bill Dunkel, Gabrielle Ciuffreda, Carolyn Partridge, Piet van Loon, Sue Hammond, Rod Francis
Citizen Interest Commissioners Present: Greg Brown
Staff Present: Chris Campany, Emily Davis

Introductions: There was a quorum of 11 towns present.

Convened: 6:08PM

Administrative Items & Reports:
Secretary’s Report: On a motion by C. Partridge, seconded by L. Kissel the minutes from the May meeting were approved, subject to ratification.
Financial Report: On a motion by P. van Loon, seconded by C. Partridge the finance report was approved, subject to ratification.

Town Energy Planning Under Act 174: The Experience of Londonderry, Vernon, Westminster and the WRC: WRC Planner Emily Davis led a panel discussion of citizen planners from the towns of Londonderry and Westminster about their experience developing an Act 174-compliant town plan energy element. Bruce Frauman and Will Reed participated from Londonderry, and Russ Hodgkins participated from Westminster. Emily began with an overview of the WRC pilot town process and what is required for Act 174 plan compliance. Asked why the towns opted to be among the first towns in the region and the state to develop these plans, both Londonderry and Westminster cited recent experience with numerous large solar installations, though Londonderry had also had experience with a proposed industrial wind development on Glebe Mountain. Both noted the challenge of meaningful participation in the Section 248 process, and the desire to give the towns more say. Londonderry also mentioned the benefit of understanding what it would take for the state to achieve the goal of 90 percent renewable energy use by 2050. Both towns wanted to see projects directed to where they were best suited, and to make that information available to project developers.
Neither town chose to identify specific locations where projects should or should not be developed. In Londonderry it was the energy committee that took the lead in collaboration with the Planning Commission, while in Westminster the town manager, planning commission and others led the effort. Both towns acknowledged the challenge towns face influencing energy consumed by the transportation sector, due in large part to the nature of existing settlement patterns and little to no influence over the mobility choices of their residents. Town plans already encourage compact settlement patterns and discourage sprawl. They hoped they had developed plans that will help towns meet energy goals and which will lead towards renewable energy development in appropriate places. Both towns noted that they couldn’t imagine having developed these plans without assistance from the WRC.

**Executive Director’s Report:** Executive Director Chris Campany explained that the Executive Board suggested that there be no Executive Board or Full Commission meeting in August, and that the annual meeting instead be held during the September meeting. The Full Commission would also meet in October for the last time in 2017, but that the date was yet to be determined as the normal Full Commission date fell on Halloween. Chris explained that Department of Housing and Community Development Commissioner, and former WRC Commissioner from Guilford, Katie Buckley would be invited to serve as guest speaker, and that the first half of the meeting would be a social gathering as it has been done the last couple of years. Chris provided a brief summary of the status of the review of the proposed sale of Vermont Yankee by Entergy to NorthStar.

**On a motion by Piet van Loon the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Collins