

# Barre City Planning Commission

## October 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes

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Present: David Sichel (Chair), Becky Wigg (Vice Chair), Joe Reil (Secretary), Rosemary Averill, Wendy Ducey, Raylene Meunier

Absent: Caitlin Corkins

Staff: Janet Shatney (Director of Planning, Permitting & Assessing)

Visitors: Sam Carlson, Encore Renewable Energy

1. Call to Order.

5:30pm.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda.

None.

3. Public comment (for something not on the agenda).

None.

4. Approval of Minutes.

a. September 12, 2024.

**Ducey moves to approve, Averill seconds, unanimous in favor.**

5. Old Business.

Sichel asked for updates on existing projects and the Transportation Planning Grant was discussed. The scope is being revised and Shatney confirmed that Taylor Newton (of Chitten Country Regional Planning Commission) thinks it would be simple to switch to new consultant, TPUDC (Town Planning & Urban Design Collaborative) and combine this project with the North Main to Summer St. Plan.

6. New Business.

a. Encore Renewable Energy: present/discuss the proposed 107 Allen Street Battery Energy Storage Project

Guest Sam Carlson presented Encore Renewable Energy's plan, to add a battery storage system to an existing solar field project, to allow energy

captured during low demand periods to be saved for higher demand period instead of exporting it to other States.

Some potential problems (fire, noise) and how they will be mitigated was discussed.

They are planning to submit a permit application in January and would like to start construction late 2025-early 2026.

Some questions were discussed, zoning vs. permitting, potential costs to the city (should be none), how Green Mountain Power may distribute the power.

Shatney confirmed that this was just an informational meeting and the Planning Commission does not need to approve or take any action, but Sam Carlson suggested that we could provide a letter from the Planning Commission in support of the project. Sichel suggests discussing this next meeting as old business.

b. Municipal Plan: Review Section 2 Housing

Our review of the Municipal plan continued with the Housing section. The existing plan was reviewed, including how things have changed and how that might impact future revisions.

Specific items that were discussed included housing costs, character of neighborhoods, density, federal (and other) grants that encourage housing renovation/construction, impact on City services, organizations that support housing (Downstreet, etc.), how the City can support these efforts.

7. Confirm Date of Next Meeting.

- a. November, 14, 2024.

8. Staff Updates.

Shatney had a few updates on the Development Review Board. A request by Capital Candy, to demolish a building on their site, was denied and the Seminary Street Project will be coming to the DRB in November.

9. Round Table.

None.

10. Adjourn.

7:05pm, **Meunier moves to adjourn, Averill seconds, unanimous in favor.**