

**Town of Bennington  
Planning Commission**

**Monday, October 3, 2016**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Town of Bennington Conference Room  
205 South Street  
Bennington, Vermont 05201**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Charles Copp, Ken Swierad, Michael McDonough, Nick Lasoff, Robert Ebert  
**Also Present:** Dan Monks, Barry Horst, Jennille Smith, Jim Therrien

**Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.**

**Mobilitie – Review of Wireless Telecommunication Facility Proposal:** Jennille Smith, Mobilitie Representative, presented an overview of Mobilitie’s plans to install thousands of telecommunication towers in public rights of way around the country. The site proposed in Bennington is located on Depot Street. The proposed facility would be a monopole 120 ft. in height. The Planning Commission asked several questions about the company, its plans, and the specifics of the proposed facility. The Planning Commission expressed concerns about the proposed facility’s impact on the downtown streetscape and the view of the Bennington Monument. Ms. Smith asked the Planning Commission to suggest locations in Town that might be more acceptable. The Planning Commission members agreed to let her know if they identify other sites that may be more acceptable, and requested that an aesthetic impact analysis be completed for any proposed site. Ms. Smith stated that she would communicate the Planning Commission’s comments to Mobilitie and likely propose another site in the future.

**Review of Paper Mill Village Solar – Murphy Road:** The Planning Commission reviewed the Petition for a Certificate of Public Good for the proposed Paper Mill Village Solar project on Murphy Road. After a long discussion, the Planning Commission, by consensus, agreed that they had no adverse comments, but could not determine with certainty that the screening of the project from Murphy Road was adequate.

**Election of Chairman:** Charles Copp nominated Michael McDonough for Chairperson of the Planning Commission. Ken Swierad seconded the nomination. The vote in favor of electing Michael McDonough as Chairperson was unanimous. All of the Planning Commission members thanked Barry Horst for his years of dedicated service and exceptional leadership of the Commission as Chairperson.

**The meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted

Daniel W. Monks  
Planning Director