



NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD

Dewey Building
National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05620-3201

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, June 13th, 2017

10:00 am

Location of Meeting:

NRB – Dewey Building
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3201

Present at Meeting:

Diane B. Snelling, Chair
Dominic Cloud, Member
Brad Aldrich, Member
Elizabeth Courtney, Alternate Member

ABSENT

Martha (Marty) Illick, Member
Don Sargent, Member
Peter Gill, Associate General Counsel

STAFF

Gregory Boulbol, General Counsel
Kimberley Lashua, Administration Manager
Aaron Brondyke, Enforcement Officer
Elexandra Arthers, Legal Technician
Donna Barlow Casey, Executive Director

The Natural Resources Board meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM on June 13th, 2017 at NRB – Dewey Building- by Diane Snelling.

I. Approval of the Minutes

Meeting minutes of April 10th, 2017 and May 9th, 2017 were reviewed and unanimously approved by the Board.

II. Opportunity for Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items`

No members of the public were in attendance.

III. NRB, Office, and Budget Updates

Budget-

We are within range of meeting budgetary goals for the 2017 fiscal year, and are still very hopeful that we will meet this target. We will continue to track this progress.



Website-

Our new website launched in May. The Board was encouraged to visit and submit any comments or suggestions they may have for improvement.

Board & Commission Training-

There will be a meeting held on June 20th in Montpelier, Vermont and June 22nd in Rutland, Vermont. We are looking forward to the opportunity to discuss Act 47 as a group.

CACC Project-

We have been working on a large compliance initiative in the form of requesting Certificate of Actual Construction Cost forms from Permittees that have not completed this final step in the permitting process. We are back-dating in this process and have started with 2010.

Reduction Exercise-

The administration has asked us to do an exercise in budget reduction. They have asked us to plan for a 2%,3%, and 4% reduction. Through personnel changes and retirements, we will be able to meet these projections.

IV. Legislative/Policy updates

Diane Snelling and Donna Barlow Casey updated the Board on active legislative and policy matters as follows:

Act 47:

Donna Barlow Casey gave an overview of the Act's expectations as well as timelines; The first of which is September 2017. Diane Snelling and Donna Barlow Casey will be interacting with the public to gather information for, and garner engagement in, the project. We will be working on Permit improvement through work with PIVOT and a series of three "Turn the Curve" initiatives.

S.135

S.135 has been signed by the Governor. It has some provisions that relate to Act 250. These provisions aim to encourage more residential development in all designated centers by allowing Act 250 permit amendment exemptions to all designated centers and removing the building unit caps on the largest two town population brackets. This results in there being no limit on unit numbers in designated centers with more than 10,000 people.

V. Appeals (Summary Discussion/ Status)

Authorities currently delegated to the Chair-

Greg Boulbol provided a memo about the current process of appeals ratification and the subject was opened to the board for comments and suggestions. Dominic Cloud offered that the Chair should have the discretion to determine entry of appearances- and that the policy matters should be brought to the Board after an appearance is entered to determine what our policy and participation should be as the NRB. Dominic Cloud made a motion to strike “appropriate” and replace “ratification” with “Board policy direction”; Brad Aldrich seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. The sentence now reads “appearing in the Legislature on behalf of the Board, subject to Board policy direction.” The Board will no longer ratify the Chairs decisions to enter an appearance in a matter, but will guide policy and participation decisions in these matters.

Brad Aldrich made a motion to strike #7 (day-to-day administration of Jurisdictional Opinion Reconsideration matters, as needed, between Board meetings) as the Board no longer handles JO Reconsiderations; Dom seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Appeals overview-

Greg Boulbol gave the Board brief status updates on the following appellate matters, Comtuck- East Track, Devonwood Investors, Indian Brook, Carpenter Farm, and Shoreham.

VI. Executive Session

Elizabeth Courtney made a motion to find that premature disclosure of matters would compromise the Board. The motion was seconded by Dominic Cloud. Brad Aldrich made a motion to enter executive session to discuss the Board position in such matters. Dominic Cloud seconded the motion, and the motions were unanimously approved by the Board. The Board entered Executive Session at 11:07 am. The Board came out of Executive session at 11:41 am.

VII. Other Business- Adjourn

Brad Aldrich made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Elizabeth Courtney seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the motion.