

Senator Ginny Lyons, Chair  
Margaret Cheney, PSB member  
Representative Tony Klein  
Judge Robert Mello  
Chris Recchia, Commissioner DPS

## Citizen Participation in PSB Proceedings Working Group

Minutes

October 6, 2016 at 1:00 P.M.

Susan M. Hudson Hearing Room, Third Floor, 112 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont

In attendance: Senator Ginny Lyons; Representative Tony Klein; Commissioner Chris Recchia; Board Member Margaret Cheney; Judge Robert Mello (via phone).

---

The meeting was called to order by Senator Lyons at 1:00 P.M.

The Working Group heard testimony on experience with citizen participation in Public Service Board proceedings by the following individuals:

Nathan and Jane Palmer expressed concern that citizens are unable to utilize State of Vermont employees as professional resources to discuss issues on proposed projects. The Palmers discussed the investment of time and money necessary when citizen intervenors participate in PSB proceedings.

Annette Smith, on behalf of Vermonters for a Clean Environment, provided an extensive list of recommendations to ease participation in PSB proceedings in advance of the meeting. She answered questions and provided clarifications. Ms. Smith encouraged the use of community-based stakeholder processes in siting renewable energy projects.

Steve Whitaker recommended that a *pro se* handbook be developed to assist citizens in participating in PSB proceedings and that technology be more effectively utilized to encourage participation in PSB processes.

Chris Company, on behalf of the Windham Regional Commission, discussed the challenge of participating in PSB proceedings with limited resources on a *pro se* basis. Mr. Company stated that the Commission has found the PSB to be patient with *pro se* intervenors and the PSD to be helpful in understanding processes.

Dick Saudek, Esq., discussed his experiences representing towns in renewable energy project siting matters and identified ways in which the towns are uniquely positioned to determine impacts of such projects on their communities.

Paul Gillies, Esq., a municipal attorney, described his experience participating in PSB proceedings (he stated that he is new to PSB processes over the past 1.5 years).

Senator Ginny Lyons, Chair  
Margaret Cheney, PSB member  
Representative Tony Klein  
Judge Robert Mello  
Chris Recchia, Commissioner DPS

Peter Zamore, Esq., discussed his perspective on citizen participation in PSB proceedings. He described the importance of public awareness, the effect of informal involvement such as through public hearings, and the responsibilities of formal intervention.

Rob Chapman discussed his experience participating in PSB processes and suggested that the Vermont Access Network could assist with raising public awareness of PSB proceedings.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15 P.M.