

**Town of Bennington
Planning Commission**

Wednesday, April 20, 2011

5:00 p.m.

**Town of Bennington Fire facility
130 River Street
Bennington, Vermont 05201**

MINUTES

Members Present: Barry Horst, Nicolas Lasoff, Donald Campbell, Mike McDonough, Charles Copp

Also Present Dan Monks - Planning Director, Jim Sullivan - BCRC, Representatives from VELCO,
Representatives from CVPS, Several Bennington Residents.

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

Informational Meeting - Relocation of VELCO Substation: Representatives from VELCO described the proposed location of the VELCO substation currently located on Route 9 East at the intersection of Route 9 and the Northern leg of Route 279. VELCO is proposing to move the station approximately a mile north to a site east of route 279. Several concerns regarding the proposal were raised with particular concern expressed by the Planning Commission regarding the negative aesthetic impact of the project. The Planning Commission noted that the Town has policies and regulations in place to protect the scenic resources of the Town, specifically the Town of Bennington Scenic Resource Inventory and the Rural Conservation District Scenic Resource Protection Regulations. These policies and regulations are a clear, written community standard intended to preserve the aesthetics and scenic beauty of Bennington. The proposal as presented appears to violate the specific policies and regulations regarding aesthetic impacts in the area in which the project is proposed.

VELCO committed to attempt to address the concerns by modifying the existing proposal or attempt to find an alternative location. VELCO agreed to meet with the Planning Commission again to discuss changes to the proposal.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel W. Monks
Planning Director