

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

7 PM – 9:15 PM

Town Hall

Present: David Pill, Suzy Hodgson, Catherine Hughes, Hans Ohanian, Michelle Lussier

November Meeting Minutes were approved after an amendment to a spelling change.

David presented info on the attic insulation; it was discussed that the estimate compared to the feedback warrants further investigation before a decision is made on installing additional insulation.

VMI was here today as the Town Hall maintenance provider to investigate whether the FA intakes on the existing AC unit can be closed. They also found issues with the existing programmable thermostats being programmed incorrectly; VMI and Mike from Building Energy are collaborating on the ERV and AC controls for interaction.

Building project is complete; bill has been in for 30 days. Suzy to continue pursuing the payment from the State through the approved grant.

1. Discussion concerning dark sky issues; is this an Energy Committee issue? Dark Sky advocacy is not an energy issue unless lights are converted AND includes shielding. A suggestion of \$2000 in the budget for a seed money towards commercial lighting retrofits.
2. Post project cost savings/monitoring will be pursued for public information.
3. David suggested looking at the VT Energy Atlas, looking at all resources in the Town and identify all natural resources and listing potential for energy resources and energy use in the entire town. \$1000?
4. Electrical use is an easily identifiable use, but other fuel sources may be harder to identify. Should we look at a stipend for a research study by a graduate/undergraduate student to identify town energy usage?
5. Create an energy challenge? Schools? Monitoring opportunities?
6. Guest speakers?
7. EPA monitoring?

Request a total of \$5000 from the Town for this year's budget.

PACE program: PACE funds both energy efficiency and renewable energy resources.

Hans reported how the legal implications may be impacted by mortgage default. Currently being tied to legislation with the Montpelier biomass project. Hans has concerns about tax issues dependent upon each renewable, and the governing group may not be able to properly calculate cost effectiveness and carbon footprint. Catherine argued not all these answers are black and white, and we should not be advocating one system over another. Financial schemes are harder to define dependent on the systems available. Hans would like to show the cost effectiveness of each system, but Catherine and David are concerned with variables of each system. There was no final agreement on recommendations.