

ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, August 10, 2011

7:00 PM

Town Hall

Anne Bijur, Suzy Hodgson, Michelle Lussier, David Pill, Jennifer Chiodo, Hans Ohanian, Catherine Hughes, Gerald Bouchard, Charles Russell

- Catherine Hughes appointed secretary for the meeting.
- Minutes from the previous monthly meeting were approved.
- EPA intern Corina Solis presented the results of her EPA portfolio manager and town building energy consumption and benchmarking study. This report will be posted on the Energy Committee's website.
- Hans had concerns about discussion regarding his appearance before the Selectboard's meeting of June 27, 2011. Hans had correctly stated that he was speaking as Charlotte resident and not as member of the Energy Committee, but the minutes did not reflect that, and efforts were made to correct them. Once this was explained to Hans, he appeared to be satisfied.
- Anne Bijur, speaking as an employee of AllEarth Tracker and also as an Energy Committee member went over her presentation to the Selectboard. The town would pay \$1,000 upfront to lease a 60 – 150 kw tracker installation . The commercial power purchase agreement has the option for the Town to purchase the tracker after 5 years. AllEarth gains the Federal and State tax credits. The Town or customer pays a fixed rate with the payments to be divided over 12 months. At the end of 5 years, there would be a new or adjusted electricity rate at which time the Town/customer could purchase the installation at fair market value (usually about 30 % of the installed cost). One to two acres would be needed to support 14- 27 trackers of 5.5 kw each. The Town's three buildings use about 74,000 kwh annually (The Town Hall alone uses about 28,800 kwh) which would require about 10 trackers (24 panels Each) Including the School and Fire Station, the Town would require 5 more trackers. There are a number of possible locations/sites in Charlotte owned by the Town which could be adequate to host the trackers, for example, Thompson's Point, Plouffe Lane and the Flea Market which were briefly discussed. A spirited discussion ensued regarding the value of trackers in the future. GMP would pay the Town .06/kwh and All Earth Renewables .20/kwh so the Town's net cost would be \$.04 kwh. The Town currently pays GMP a rate at E06 or 13.456 kwh. Anne pointed out that the Town gains a fixed electricity rate and a renewable energy source. Hans believes that energy costs will decrease in the future, and questioned the benefits of the program for the Town the Town appeared to take the risks while AllEarth took the credits/benefits. Hans and Jennifer proposed setting aside money for maintenance for after the warranty period if/when the Town would own the trackers. Anne stated that Allsun will look at the potential sites and make a proposal to the SB. The Energy Committee will look at this proposal and other information and deliver an opinion to the Selectboard. Charles Russell noted that it looked like it made the most financial sense to purchase the trackers at the ten year mark. Michelle suggested a tax rate analysis.

- The next monthly meeting will be held September 7, 2011 at 7pm. It will be a week earlier than usual to give the Committee time to discuss a proposal to install solar trackers on Town property and report back to the Selectboard before its next meeting on September 12.
- Jen reported that the Dark Skies Subcommittee did not get a marketing grant being awarded by the Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility and Cabot, but that we are being referred to another class which is dealing with non – profits.