

## Energy Committee Meeting

Weds, November 9, 2011

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Town Hall

Michelle Lussier, Catherine Hughes, David Pill, Suzy Hodgson, Jen Chiodo, Anne Bijur, Gerard Bouchard, Charles Russell (joined late)

- 1) Jen is secretary
- 2) Approve minutes from September 28, remove David's name from meeting as he wasn't in attendance; David's comments which were read during the meeting will be added. Approved as amended; 4 voted in favor, 1 abstained
- 3) John Quinney, Manager of Energy Co-op of Vermont.
  - a) Jennifer is a co-op member and formerly served on the Co-op Board, including service as Board Chair. John presented an idea that the co-op has under consideration. Is not providing a formal proposal.
  - b) Member owned cooperative. Main business is providing heating oil and kero and servicing equipment. Different from oil dealers because it is a co-op and focused on members and committed to efficiency and renewables.
  - c) Looking at launching an energy efficiency program for the members which could include on bill financing for energy efficiency upgrades. For people who are on a budget plan, costs may go up some, but the concept is that the reduction in oil use will help pay for the efficiency.
    - i) In home "check-up" using software to identify opportunities and provide info on-line in about 24 hours. Basis for ongoing relationship with members.
    - ii) Gathering information and will follow that up to provide information on opportunities to connect them with relevant market events.
    - iii) Jon indicated they would add assessment of solar potential of the site.
    - iv) Areas of house are rated and if elements are rated badly, then the software will identify options for pursuing.
  - d) People doing the check-ups are BPI certified. Purpose was to reduce the time required for audit, but to gather the info to help people understand

their options. David suggested the concept of teaming up with BPI service delivery providers to reduce costs.

- e) How is this different from Efficiency Vermont's offering for button-up? May be perceived differently because it is not neighbors doing it. These are people with whom there is a trusted relationship.
  - f) May be useful as part of the time of sale rating system.
- 4) Next SB hearing on AER proposal Nov 21 – role of Energy Committee at 6 PM
- a) Planning commission meeting Nov 17 which will focus on AER at 7:00 PM. Planning commission will make a recommendation to the Selectboard. Siting will be considered, they are having a site visit at 4 PM that day.
  - b) Suzy presented the proposal to the Conservation Commission. The land is supposed to be conserved.
  - c) Selectboard members had indicated to energy committee members (outside of this meeting) that they believe more people support it and hopes they will show up. Catherine questioned whether it is the role of the Energy Committee to get people to show up. It was agreed that it is Ok to encourage people to support it.
  - d) Town Plan – pick out points that support renewables; also has conservation and visual impacts on scenic road.
  - e) Jen will present on behalf of the Committee.
  - f) Committee voted in support of the AER proposal. Reviewing the feasibility and life-cycle costs this is a good opportunity for the town. Benefits of renewable energy – peaker for GMP is a kerosene power plant in Berlin, VT; has exceeded the NOx limit.
    - i) Good thing to do, benefits outweighs aesthetics, roads are scenic, conservation district – “can't have structures”
    - ii) Six cases in Shelburne where people appealed and it was found not to have a basis.
    - iii) Charlotte is in the top ten in electrical energy consumption in the state.

5) Town Plan update – Energy Committee involvement sought – Jen read the list from the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and some were discussed and added as noted below

a) Sighting standards/guidelines

i) Sighting development to minimize energy use

ii) Sighting renewable generation systems

(1) Type, location, mitigation, mapping

(2) Catherine indicated that siting should have the impact on the beneficiary instead of siting so that the impacts are on the neighbors. Catherine has information regarding examples of siting issues for wind turbines which she has shared with Suzy.

(3) Review renewable energy resources map – Vermont Energy Atlas; purpose more investigation into siting, what is purpose? Perhaps develop standards, review the atlas for relevance. Anne indicated that the map, if kept up to date will show how much renewables have been installed, David indicated that the maps show electric energy use by location.

(4) Develop siting guidelines

iii) Incentives/Taxes

(1) Renewable incentives

(2) Look at Hinesburg – incentives for limiting home sizes, density bonuses

iv) Resources

(1) Bio-mass

v) Energy efficient construction

(1) Code compliance

(2) Hinesburg has requirement for Energy Star new construction to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy

(3) Sighting

(4) Incentives or requirements

- vi) Dark Skies
  - vii) Discussion of Town buildings
    - (1) Generation on town owned property
  - viii) Commercial property energy requirements
  - ix) District Energy
    - (1) How we can encourage neighborhood based energy systems
    - (2) Encourage, easements for district heating etc.
  - x) Transportation
    - (1) Park and ride
    - (2) Statements of what we support
    - (3) Means for people to use non-fossil fuel
    - (4) Bike paths
  - xi) Conserving energy/Energy Efficiency
    - (1) Architecture 2030
  - b) Suzy to review for structure, theme and approach.
  - c) Planning commission is looking at reorganizing the town plan.
- 6) Programming TED Energy Monitor in Town Hall – Michelle