

Energy Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

7 PM at Town Hall

Agenda

In Attendance: Jenny Cole, Jennifer Chiodo, Catherine Hughes, Michelle Lussier, Anne Bijur, Suzy Hodgson, David Pill, Peter Trono

Catherine Hughes was appointed to be the secretary for this meeting.

Last month's minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

EV Community Mobilization Project-

Hans raised questions about energy assessments – he says Efficiency VT is not taking into account energy efficiency of the furnace and saying folks are being pushed into unnecessary energy audits. And Hans said allowances were not being made for boiler fired water heaters.

40,000 BTU per square foot is the current threshold.

Hans proposed lifting the threshold to 60,000 BTU. After much discussion, the committee agreed to instruct assessment volunteers in Charlotte to update the number in step five of the worksheet to 52,000 BTUs (the new figure is based on EIA data RECS 2005 New England total average energy consumption square feet assuming a 2,500 square foot house), and Suzy agreed to inform Efficiency Vermont as part of the project evaluation.

DPS Grant Application-

Streetlight Upgrades: Suzy reported that the Town only has four streetlights under its jurisdiction, so we are too small to qualify for a grant.

Town Hall Energy Audit. There was much discussion about the pros and cons of putting fuel contracts out to bid, and whether it is cost effective to make the improvements with a payback period of more than a few years and what constitutes financial viability. Also discussed was Retro commissioning – whether it makes sense to address the poor heating and cooling control system of the Town Hall.

\$44,160 is the cost of proposed improvements – a reasonable \$9.81 per square foot

Hans proposed having parts of the energy audit re-written, including a statement saying the Town Hall is more like a house than a commercial building.

Action Items are that Suzy will contact Building Energy regarding the cost of the audit (which at \$1,320 was more than the agreed to price of \$1,000) and to get a breakdown of cost and materials for the proposal.

Transition Town applications for CSWD community funds -

A formal endorsement by a Town committee is being sought. The proposal to substitute flatware for plastic utensils at the Charlotte Central School was unanimously supported, as was the proposal to institute composting.

Energy Efficiency Enhancements – providing advice to Charlotters.

Hans presented a series of suggestions, including tuning up burners every year, installing programmable thermostats, lowering hot water temperatures and looking into retrofits. After much discussion, the Committee decided to further review the Enhancements.