

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2014

7:00 – 8:50 PM

Town Hall

Attending: Gerald Bouchard, Planning Commission liaison, Rebecca Foster, Suzy Hodgson, Chair, Catherine Hughes, Laurel Jaunich, Bill Kallock, David Pill. **Absent:** Jen Chiodo. **Guests:** Meg Berlin, Abby Foulk.

1. Introductions.
2. October minutes, approved.
3. Budget: Suzy reviews the numbers she has. Just under \$1,975 is left for budget '14-'15; \$105 will be used for VECAN conference December 6; remainder of \$1,870 will be used for weatherization kits.

New budget for '15-'16 (starting July 2015):

- energy audit for one of the town buildings, \$2,500
- conferences, \$600
- town exterior lighting design, \$500
- guest speakers, \$250
- weatherization kits, \$1,000
- total \$4,850.

Budget is approved by those present. Select Board meeting to present EC budget is November 24 at 7:20 pm. Bill, David, and Suzy committed to going.

4. Review and discuss the EC proposed chapter of the Town Plan with the intention of gleaned from it priorities for EC activities in 2015. Decisions made:
 - We will have a rolling agenda item at EC meetings for EC members to present any updates on emerging energy-related technologies that they consider may be important for the Town to know;
 - We will start a googledoc to keep a running list of these updates;
 - When we feel it's appropriate we will share our updates with the leadership of the Town in a presentation and with residents of the town through publication of a newspaper article on the subject. We could organize workshops around particular issues when warranted (see budget.)

- We will look into adopting the Energy Star Program administered by Efficiency Vermont; Hinesburg uses the program so Charlotte would not be a pioneer. Did we decide WHO will look into this?
- Suzy(?) will ask Dean about the procedure for getting net zero energy building information included on permits for new construction in Charlotte.
- Investigate what Efficiency Vermont could do help us attain our goal of improving efficiency of 25% of homes and businesses by 2020 (400 homes in Charlotte), perhaps with assistance on energy audits. Champlain Office of Economic Development was another resource mentioned. Did we decide WHO will look into this?
- We will continue to provide weatherization kits through the food shelf in order to help meet the goal of improved efficiency in 25% of homes (and businesses.) See budget.
- At Abby's suggestion we will keep our eye on the trash hauling routes in connection with the separate compost pick-up mandated by 2020.
- Laurel with her group at CVU is looking at how to make school buses more efficient (get more than 6 mpg); after they address this they will look into biofuel for the buses.

We ran out of time and decided to continue the conversation about the EC's short- and long-term goals and strategies at the next meeting.

We also discussed as a separate matter the need to revise this draft chapter, as on closer scrutiny some things don't make as much sense as they seemed to before. We should do this while it's fresh in our minds, but we have time since the Town Plan is not being considered this year. We will wait until we've revised again before asking Jeannine to post on the town website so that she has to do it only once.

5. Outreach event: Once the new energy chapter of the Town Plan is finalized we will organize a forum to discuss it with the intention of gaining supporters and getting feedback in anticipation of next year's vote. Details and framework not discussed, as it's premature. Suzy will check with Dean about whether any event to discuss the chapter must be warned.
6. Abby suggested the EC could work with the Green Team at CCS, including the cute and proven effective spokeschildren from second grade.
7. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Foster