

Energy Committee Minutes

February, 11 2015

Town Hall

Energy Committee Attendees: Laurel Jaunich, David Pill, Rebecca Foster, Jen Chiodo, Suzy Hodgson, Catherine Hughes,

Planning Attendees: Gerald Bouchard, Jeannine McCrumb

1. Approval of January minutes: Delayed to next meeting (Jen to issue minutes for Jan and Feb prior to March mtg.)
2. Town Plan Discussion:

Planning commission is compiling individual comments and addressing. Draft 2 is expected by July 2015.

Siting of renewable energy should be considered for inclusion in the Plan because of the fact that the PSB will consider siting requirements in Town Plans. The Planning Commission is not for or against putting siting standards into the Town Plan. Ideally treat like other types of development. However, this doesn't necessarily work because of lot coverage. Renewable installations would not require a local permit. The Planning Commission will look at siting requirements and draft language for Energy Committee Review.

Consider the Addison County Energy Plan (regional planning commission). If something is not on the grid, then it falls under the town jurisdiction.

It was agreed that the prior working session on the Town Plan Energy section was very productive. Agreed to identify and assign plan topics and work on them in detail in upcoming energy com meetings. People need to prepare in advance for the discussion which requires a reminder well in advance of the meeting (Suzy).

Assignments as follows:

David – structures

Laurel - Transportation

Jen - Incentives

Bill/Catherine – “Renewable Energy” – change to “Energy Supply”

Suzy will check with Jeannine about how the Plan works with the Zoning regulations. What is the link and how does the implementation and follow up work?

3. SB Feedback: Catherine shared the discussion with Selectboard feedback on the budget from Nov 25th.

The Selectboard liked the heat pump session and would like to see another one held at the Town Hall. Town agreed that this would be a good idea.

The SB suggested the energy com look at changing skating rink lights out to LEDs and shielding – Catherine to discuss lighting with Rec Dept. One issue is that this will not save energy and may require additional poles.

Figure out how to include the school in our improvement portfolio. Rebecca thinks that there may be an opportunity based on the school's efforts on waste reduction. The facility manager has been engaged on waste. Rebecca to follow up with the green committee (Abbey and Deirdre).

The Selectboard has asked for weatherstripping for the door behind the table. Jen to include weatherstripping for the door in the EFI order for the food shelf.

Rebecca noted that Transition Town will present on the Carbon Tax.

4. Food Shelf and energy kit proposal update: Rebecca

Builders for Social Responsibility sponsored the grant. We will know next week.

Decided to start with ordering blankets for the Foodshelf. To order 20 heat kits. Suzy to investigate the cost of ordering and shipping. Up to a cost of \$25 each give or take 10%.

Mobile home siting – Suzy is interested in having a net zero mobile home - \$135k installed with incentives for \$36k (VHCB) + \$17k (EVT) in Charlotte.

5. Selectboard is considering the Rutland resolution on legislative action on solar installations.

The CETF considered the Rutland legislative request. Agreed that we need to broaden the requirements to address all new energy infrastructure. The CETF wants to be careful not to vilify renewable energy. Rebecca will draft language that expands the request to all energy infrastructure and send it around. Jen, Rebecca and Catherine will attend the SB meeting to present CETF position.