Energy Committee Minutes

September 21, 2017

Meeting called to order at 4:32PM

Present: Buddy Behrendt, Bill Dunkel, Tom Johnson, Vance Bell, Michael Simonds, Dawn Bower, Maureen Bell

The minutes from the meeting on September 5 were moved and seconded for adoption by Vance and Buddy. They were subsequently, unanimously approved.

Maureen was here to review the Selectboard position on the solar project behind the cemetery. She said they did not sign the lease for the project – they don’t want to do so before meetings with the public are held. Bill asked if the SB wants the EC to schedule the information meetings – Yes. What about something at the Town Meeting – Good Idea. Michael asked how Maureen feels about the project – Positive. There is an agreement between the SB, town attorney and Green Lantern on the language in the Option to Lease Agreement. Bill asked what the SB needs to determine whether there is sufficient support for the project – discussion, vote, etc. SB will get back.

Fall Energy Fair - at the last meeting we talked about Oct 23, Oct 26 and Nov 7-9. Vermont Foam no longer does audits. They do a walk-thru and bid at the same time. They could be at the Fair. If people from Windham sign up for their services, they would come to town and be able to do several in a day. Heat Squad would like to come too.

We limited the days down to Nov 7 or 9. The task is to contact the participating companies and ask them to keep both dates open until we can confirm. Tom will check with Heat Squad; Buddy with Stove Depot (they haven’t called him back yet); Bill will talk to VT Foam.

Bill also knows Keene Nissan is interested in coming to show/test drive the Leaf. Bill will be in touch.

ButtonUp Vermont thru Efficiency VT. They promote home energy improvement and weatherization. They are looking for 25 towns to participate in their programs. Do we want to do that – we basically meet their criteria already in terms of Energy Fairs and other things. They have goodies to give away and provide media assistance. We could have them explain rebate and low-cost loan programs at the Fair.

Do we want a solar installer as well? Vance to call electrician Ed Bentley in Londonderry, Katrina at ISA in Brattleboro and Farnum Insulatores in Putney. Bill to talk to Net Zero in Chester.

Decided to shoot for Nov 7. The format of the Fair was discussed. Finally decided on this:

5:00-6:00 - we will have informal discussions and hopefully test drives in the Leaf

6:00-6:45 – formal presentations by the exhibitors (no Q&A)

6:45-8:00 - informal discussions at the information tables

Town Energy Plans – Londonderry, which is a pilot town in the WRC, has written their energy plan. Now the town has to have hearings, after which the plan will be added to the Town Plan.

Jamaica has also written a Town Plan which will be discussed on Monday, Sept 25 at 5:00. Bill plans to attend.

The Windham Regional Energy plan is in draft form.

Vance will send links to the results when several towns applied for compliance with Act 174.

Dawn would like to be a member of the Energy Committee – would the SB please appoint her?

The WRC has renewable energy planning grants available ($300,000). Our discussion yielded the result that we don’t have the need to apply for this right now.

The next meeting of this committee is tentatively set for September 28, provided we get feedback from participants in the Energy Fair. The following meeting is then set for October 19. Both will be at 4:30.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded by Vance and Tom. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Bell