Energy Committee Minutes for 2/15/18

Present: Vance Bell, Dawn Bower, Bill Dunkel, Tom Johnson, Cathy Stover

The meeting opened at 4:35PM in Town Office.

The minutes from the January 18, 2018 meeting were unanimously adopted.

We noted that Buddy Behrendt has resigned from the Energy Committee. If you know of anyone who might want to replace Buddy, please let someone on our committee know.

The committee decided to hold a public hearing on the possibility of installing solar panels in the field adjacent to the cemetery. The hearing will occur at the Town Office on Tuesday, March 13, at 6:30PM. A summary of the project and an invitation to attend the public hearing will be offered at Town Meeting.

The Green Lantern Group is fast tracking potential solar projects in anticipation of an unfavorable change in the net metering rate by July 1. Ralph Meima has asked if the Select Board would be willing to sign an Option to Lease agreement by March 1, to allow GL to begin preliminary studies of the site near the cemetery. The agreement would have a clause allowing the town to opt out if there is significant opposition to the project expressed at the public information session on 3/13. Bill will ask the Select Board for guidance at the S.B. meeting on Monday, February 19.

Vance and Tom updated the committee on the meeting they attended on enhanced energy planning with Marion Major, of the WRC, and members of five other pilot towns. We looked at the “Enhanced Energy Element” document from the WRC with the data that Vance had added to the document. Bill distributed a handout which lists twelve tasks that our committee needs to accomplish in order to finish our town enhanced energy plan. We divided into three teams and assigned each team a task to work on before our next meeting.

Tom and Dawn will try to identify preferred and unsuitable locations for renewable energy generation in Windham.

Vance and Cathy will develop an overall statement for transportation, and related policy statements and action steps.

Bill and Michael will develop a statement, policies and action steps for conservation.

Each team will report on their progress at out next meeting which will be held on Thursday, March 8th at **4:00PM** in the Town Office.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Dunkel