

Windham Planning Commission  
Presentation by Energy Committee of Energy Plan  
Meeting Minutes  
7/11/18

Present: Chris Cummings, Maureen Bell, Tom Johnson, Dawn Bower, Bob Kehoe, Heath Boyer, Bob Bingham, Louise Johnson, Mary Boyer, Vance Bell, Keith Jungermann, Kathy Jungermann, Jeff Wheeler, Kord Scott, Bill Dunkel, Kate Wright (arrived at 6:50)

Meeting minutes by Maureen Bell:

Worked with WRC. Windham among second group of pilot towns. Lots of assistance from Marion Major

Plan has been run by WRC - they thought it was solid.

After this hearing the Planning Commission can make changes then on to Select Board. If so, then Select Board has to have a hearing. Then this gets added to the Energy Plan in the Town Plan.

Then the town can submit to WRC. If they find compatibility then our energy plan would be compliant with Act 174 - state level.

This would give us "Substantial Deference" in a public hearing before the Public Utility Commission on any proposed energy plan developed in Windham.

The Energy Committee felt Substantial Deference cannot hurt.

Also could benefit the town in many ways.

Bill says that the Town Plan is a very good one. Other towns are using it as a model.

"90/50" Generation  
Transportation  
Conservation

Maureen presented suggested revisions to the draft she has of the Energy Plan. Grammatical suggestions were accepted.

Discussion about Windham residents carpooling to shopping and activity destinations. There may be carpool software that would help.

Maureen questions why several propane trucks provide service to many homes in the area. Jeff questions if Windham residents might be able to form a coop to buy from one propane provider, thus getting a better price and reducing the number of truck trips to deliver the gas..

Heath Boyer questioned whether, in light of the cancellation of the solar project near the cemetery, there are limitations on the number of solar projects that the electricity lines along Windham Hill Road can handle. Bill will look into this.

Bob Bingham questioned why anyone ever choose to develop in town if the electricity lines have a limited capacity. He suggested people concentrate of rooftop solar panels.

Review of solar generation map showing best sites for solar development in Windham. Energy Committee created a list of what sites would be best suited for solar development. Energy Committee used state and town data to identify suggested sites for either preferred or nonpreferred sites.

Goals and policies were developed by Energy Committee for reduction in energy use.

Third goal is on land use patterns.

Fourth goal is on renewable energy.

Action steps should be developed to achieve the goals of the Energy Committee. This is an initial stab by the Energy and Planning Commissions to address energy use. It will have to be approved by the Select Board.

Can incentives be created to encourage new home builders or retrofitters to build more more efficiently?

Question of whether the town could coordinate on having energy saving projects done. Chris Cummings raised the question of whether a weatherization coop could be created by residents to negotiate favorable prices with a preferred vendor.

Jeff suggested this idea might be discussed at a community chicken barbeque.

Bob Kehoe noted that Efficiency Vermont knows about state energy standards and offers significant rebates and credits for efficiency improvements, such as installing energy efficient lights.

Kord mentioned that Efficiency Vermont has a device (known as "sense?") which can measure electricity use in one's home and identify the specific items (refrigerator, computer, lights, etc.) that draw the most power. They gave many of these away for free. It might be worthwhile looking into this.

Bill questioned whether there are things the town can do to educate townspeople on reducing energy use in town. Bob Bingham suggested having people in town who are doing innovative things to generate or save energy report about this at a public meeting. He also talked about

creating a pool of money (everyone who wants to participate throws in \$5) which would be awarded to the household which lowers its electricity bill the most.

Bob Kehoe will try to contact Tim Waker to see if he would like to meet with representatives of Green Lantern to discuss possible solar development at Timber Ridge

Bill will get info from this meeting to the Select Board.

Next meeting of the Planning Commission: Wed., August 8, 6:30 PM. Town Office.