

Energy Committee Minutes
January 16, 2020

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

Meeting called to order at 4:34PM

We postponed acting on the minutes from Sept. 19 and Oct. 17 because we did not have copies to look at.

Michael explained his idea about trying to develop a community solar array on his land, or perhaps somewhere else on Old Cheney Road. Bill reported on his conversation with Ralph Meima of Green Lantern Solar, who said the key is to find 30 to 35 families who are willing to buy into the array. Meima confirmed that the Phase I electricity lines on Old Cheney Rd. have enough unused capacity, especially on the northern portion of the road, to carry the power that would be produced. The committee unanimously agreed that there is nothing to lose at this point by pursuing the project and gathering more information. Ralph Meima said he will send preliminary data about the cost of panels, production, ROI, etc. Michael will gather similar information about the panels he already has at his house. Bill will contact local energy committees to see if they might be interested in attending a meeting about this. Vance will talk to Marcia Clinton.

Bill reported on the Window Dressers workshop he attended the day before in Berlin, VT, with Peter Bergstrom, head of the Rockingham energy committee. Everyone agreed this also is a project that may be worthwhile for our committee to pursue. Peter is trying to get a sample storm window that we can use at Town meeting to explain how the program works.

Michael is willing to host an open house at his energy efficient home sometime in the spring or summer, preferably in May, provided he is able to get sufficient work done on the house by then. The committee agreed that this kind of event, which

also might include vendors, would be more effective than having another energy fair like the one we had in November with Efficiency Vermont.

Tom explained his idea about having an article from the energy committee in every issue of the *Windham News & Notes*. His article will appear in the current issue. Michael will write an article for the March issue. Bill will see if anyone else who spoke at the November energy fair is willing to write an article. Other topics we may write about in the future include a community solar array, the Window Dressers program and ways that homeowners can get low cost loans and rebates for weatherizing projects.

Bill reported that the energy committee has \$5,718.93 of unexpended funds that can be used to fund energy efficiency projects. Two possible projects the money could be used for are installing insulation in the basement of the Town Office or insulating the first floor walls and ceiling of the Meeting House. Bill will check with the Select Board to see if the money has to be used for weatherization, in particular, or if any energy efficiency project can be supported.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, at 4:30PM. However, we may need to reschedule because several members may be out of town then. Bill will be in touch if it is necessary to choose a different date to meet.

Meeting adjourned at 5:36PM