Energy Committee Minutes

August 24, 2017

Present: Vance Bell, Bill Dunkel, Tom Johnson, Michael Simonds, Cathy Stover

Minutes from August 15 meeting were unanimously adopted.

Bill reported on the Select Board’s discussion of the Option to Lease Agreement with Green Lantern Group at the Select Board meeting last week. The Board was unsure of the comments made by both Bob Fisher and Ralph Meima. Although the town attorney and Green Lantern seemed to have agreed on acceptable language, the S.B. appeared confused about the status of the agreement. Frank Seawright said he would schedule a meeting the following week with the Board, Fisher, Meima and Bill Dunkel to iron out any remaining differences. The energy committee agreed there is nothing further it can do in regard to soliciting public opinion about a possible array near the cemetery until this meeting occurs.

Bill and Vance reported on a meeting they and the Select Board had recently with Sarah Jarvis, an attorney for the Vermont League of Cities and Towns about Conflict of Interest Policy, the Open Meeting Law and Rules of Procedure. The Select Board and Jarvis feel that the Energy Committee should adopt a Conflict of Interest Policy and Rules of Procedure, and abide by the Open Meeting law. Kathy moved, seconded by Vance, that the committee adopt the Rules of Procedure and begin to abide by them as soon as the Select Board officially appoints the members of the Energy Committee. The committee will discuss the Conflict of Interest Policy at its next meeting, with the intention of adopting that, as well.

The balance of the meeting was spent working on compliance with Act 174. The committee reviewed the list of potential solar sites in Windham. We also discussed possible policies and actions that might help the town meet the energy conservation goals conveyed to us by the Windham Regional Commission. Action steps could include:

* Having an energy fair once or twice a year, beginning with a fair in mid-October this year
* Sharing information about energy audits that have been conducted on town buildings and private residences
* Putting information on the town website about rebates and tax credits that are available when energy conservation steps are taken

The next meeting of the Energy Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, September 5 at 4:00 PM in the town office.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:40PM

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Dunkel