

Marshfield and Plainfield Energy and Climate Change committee

Monthly meeting minutes, January 2nd, 2017

Old Schoolhouse Common, library upstairs

In attendance:

Nick Seifert, John Morris, Michael Horowicz, Anne Miller, Bob Atchinson, Dan Chodorkoff, Joel Trupin

Tentative agenda for January:

- Select meeting facilitator
- Agenda modification & add times
- Public comments
- Announcements
- Approve minutes
- Discuss Hazard Mitigation items and what the EC should do about this - 5 minutes
- Figure out what items we want on the Town Meeting Agenda (due in January) - 10 min
- Report out on energy siting meeting (Michael and John want to attend) - 10 min
- Plainfield updates - 5 min
- Reports on committee contacts - 5 min
- Town plan discussion -
- Create draft agenda for the next meeting

Select meeting facilitator:

- Joel volunteered / was volunteered

Agenda modification and add times:

- Times added above.

No public comments

Announcements

- Michael will be changing professions later this year and moving into something energy planning, or otherwise energy related.

Hazard mitigation:

- Anne talked to Bobbi Brimblecomb about this subject. Anne's impression was that this needs a strong leader to take initiative and help with the fire department. Bobbi also said she has a book/report on work that was done in the early 2000's. Bobbi was also aware of some past history related to this regarding GMP's actions in past instances, and other issues related to the Marshfield Dam.
- Group discussion generally about this topic and related items.
- Dan suggested that the Village Trustees might be a good group to discuss and act on this. Nick suggested that perhaps Michael could contact the village trustees about the issues, and the need for a more active hazard management director or manager. Nick will email Michael about this, and the regional RPC.

Town Meeting Agenda / Energy Committee report for town report:

- John wrote something up for this and brought it to the meeting.
- Anne had some suggestions about additional things to add. A few others also chimed in on topics.
- Bob mentioned that he uses the town report as a place to try and inspire and encourage action, as well as summarize work done over the last year.
- Bob also mentioned that our budget may need to be given in the town report as well.

- John is taking ownership of combining all town report items.
 - Dan and Anne will send information about the lecture series.
 - Michael will send information about the energy siting law, and other future plans.
 - Nick will summarize the work done around committee contacts and intent related to the resolution from 2016.

Energy siting meeting and town plan:

- Michael, John, Bob and Wes attended a regional meeting on December 14th about the regional planning legislation (Act 174). No one else from the Marshfield or Plainfield Planning commissions were there. Most other attendees were from Planning Commissions or Selectboards.
- The general idea of Act 174 is that the town would decide where they want to install renewable resources, and incorporate this into the town plan, and into the regional planning process, so that as development happens in the town, it will be encouraged to follow the proposed plan.
- The legislation defines particular pieces of information that must be included in the town plan.
- When this work has been done by the energy committees or planning commission or selectboard etc, and it gives "substantial deference" at any public service board meetings (essentially: the ability to testify at this meeting), versus if the town does not participate they get "due consideration", which is a lower status and does not carry as much weight.
- The Regional Planning Commission will be selecting 3 towns for that region who are going to commit to working with them to get through the process. The next step is to get this brought up in the selectboard meeting, and get the selectboard to express interest in doing this.
 - Michael is going to push this by contacting the selectboard/ RPC/etc.
- The Planning Commission needs to be heavily involved with this.
 - Nick will discuss this with Melissa and encourage them to discuss this during their next meeting.

Committee contacts:

- Nick is following up, as previously committed to, with Jim Brimblecomb about touring the wastewater treatment facility with the Village Trustees. More to come on this during the February meeting.

Plainfield updates:

- Bob discussed some of this already in the Act 174 section above. Mostly that Marshfield and Plainfield are hoping to coordinate on this, and to get selected as one of the 3x towns to work with the RPC on town energy plans.
- Bob is planning to buy a thermal camera for use during energy visits and other occasions in Plainfield.

Approve minutes:

- Minutes approved

Tentative agenda for February:

- Select meeting facilitator
- Public comments
- Announcements
- Approve minutes
- Town meeting survey
- Actions needed for town meeting
- Committee contacts updates
- Update on Act 174 work, e.g. did RPC select Marshfield to shepherd through the process, what are due dates for things, town plan work, etc.
- Plainfield updates