

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

August 1st, 2022 at 7:00pm

Old schoolhouse common & zoom

Members In attendance: Nick Seifert, Mike Xenakis, Anne Miller, Ellen Keene, Wes Cate, Rich Phillips

Public:

- Public Comments
 - None
- Announcements
 - Vermont Community Leadership Summit - 8/10
 - <https://www.vtrural.org/Summit22>
- Agenda Updates
 - None
- Approve previous minutes
 - Motioned and approved.
- Business
 - Plainfield Updates
 - None this time.
 - Town plan / Enhanced Energy Plan
 - Nick recapped the status of this. An existing draft exists, but was written based on aggregated data from 2015. An update to aggregated data is coming, but date is TBD. Nick also provided the draft plan to Sam Lash at CVRPC and requested feedback.
 - Nick asked about the idea of de-prioritizing wood as a fuel source in the enhanced energy plan to reduce the loss of that carbon sink.
 - Anne volunteered to check with Bobbi about what town body is responsible for the town plan update, and when they will need this enhanced energy plan.
 - Nick will follow up with Anne about this.
 - Some good discussion around this, and ideas about improvements.
 - Nick to follow up with Sam about when we might expect updated aggregate data.
 - Upper Winooski Community Solar update.
 - Ellen and Rich gave an update. They've met with three good options for land owners. They have a preferred site, who have already had a solar assessment, but did not go with a commercial provider. They need to find out from this site owner how much they would want to buy into this system. The site owner is looking into their side of things. They are discussing the site options and installation costs with a few installers. They are now starting to look into technology options as well (i.e. bi-facial solar panels).
 - Marshfield Municipal Solar update
 - Nick has reached out to GMP to get the updated solar incentive for the existing trackers. Once this information is received Nick will update the payback for the existing trackers. This information is important, because if the incentive tapers off, a larger offtaker agreement, or more solar, will be needed to fully cover the town usage.
 - Nick did determine that the credits generated if you sign up for an offtaker agreement that they have 1 year to be used by the credit owner. This is identical to other solar groups.
- Grants / Funding opportunities (ARA or other)
 - Electric buses
 - Nick touched base with Erin Barry (who is on the schoolboard), who had some feedback. Sounds like the district is involved, so Mark Tucker. Mark indicated that he is already planning to apply for the grant, but wasn't certain about the some of the practical details (electrical infrastructure, winter range,

battery/bus lifetime, etc). Unclear exactly where this goes, but Nick will follow up with Erin to get an update in a couple weeks.

- Building audit
 - Mike and Rich have discussed this a bit already, and have some ideas. Mike plans to attend the Building committee meeting this week and discuss some of these.
 - Based on the existing audit report, there are a list of improvements that the town could tackle ranging from large to small.
 - Mike has indicated that based on the work done, most of the low hanging fruit is gone, so other improvements may have poor financial payback. However, combining some building improvements with other programs, such as “community cooling centers”, this may provide a funding source and dual benefit. There is also some discussion about mold in the gym, which might be another place to show that thermal improvements would be a dual benefit.
- Food shelf walk in fridge
 - Anne gave an update here. She spoke with Efficiency Vermont today. She needs to discuss with Glen Sturgis who is responsible for the food shelf. Efficiency VT had some general guidance, like: if the cooler is less than 50% full, it is often very expensive to run. They also suggested the dual inverter air conditioners, which could be used in a “cool room”, not an insulated walk-in refrigerator using a “CoolBot” controller.
 - Usage from existing refrigeration is (per Anne’s calculation) 41.4kWh every 24h, so ~13000kWh. Though per Richi’s comments, this is “nameplate”, not actual usage which will be lower. Discussion around exactly how many kWh are being used, and what the savings would be.
- Anne asked about the fall foliage festival, and if the energy committee wanted to do anything.
 - Nick suggested getting together the EV contingent for a “check out my ride” section.
 - Other suggestions welcome, planning to discuss in September.
- Tentative agenda for next meeting:
 - Public Comments
 - Announcements
 - Agenda Updates
 - Approve previous minutes
 - Business
 - Plainfield Updates
 - Town Plan / Enhanced Energy Plan
 - Upper Winooski Community Solar
 - Marshfield Municipal Solar
 - Funding Opportunities / sources / programs
 - Electric busses
 - OSC Building committee
 - Walk-in cooler for food-shelf
 - Fall foliage festival participation

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