

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes
February 6th, 20223
Old schoolhouse common & zoom

Members In attendance: Nick Seifert, Anne Miller, Wes Cate, Bob Atchinson, Ellen Keene, Mike Xenakis.

Public: Michelle

- Public Comments
 - Michelle, cooperation VT. Very interested in local happenings, and community development and growth opportunities. She works with an organization called regeneration corps (core?), she wants to pull together a “resilience hub” in this region. Wanted to share with the Energy Committee. She is working on putting it out during a Wednesday community supper.
 - Nick shared a general overview with Michelle about the Energy Committee, and our scope of work.
 - Anne mentioned that committee members get involved with efforts of interest.
 - Nick Will send Bob connection to Michelle after the meeting.
- Announcements
 - Gardening workshop, starting this Thursday. First workshop is on seed saving. Second Thursday of every month. Nico and Jeff Swift next month. Donna Hisson vegetable production the month after. Lani Seifert and Sarah Graves about flowers and flower seeds.
 - Bob mentioned a march this weekend, forming up at city hall around noon, rally to the state house 1-3pm. February 11th
 - https://ci3.googleusercontent.com/mail-sig/AlorK4xQldZGjtN4CYb_TLiLANf0kxFFUgIf1pzUG1gWMezOaF_6v90dTRQ3HP9_o6ZOm3GyhukwYLk
 - Nick to share link for Energy Action Network upcoming webinar on 2/14.
 - Downtown Grant transportation program. Nick to share with Michelle as well.
 - <https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/downtown-transportation-fund?emci=57123389-40a2-ed11-994d-00224832eb73&emdi=ffa2182e-4ca2-ed11-994d-00224832eb73&ceid=5992914>
- Agenda modifications
 - Added OSC item.
- Approval of previous minutes
 - Motioned and approved.
- Business:
 - Plainfield Update
 - Plainfield municipal building is getting a review of the energy audit that Bob/Ed had previously done. Some work likely to be done on the building, and Bob has his eye on some improvements already.
 - Bob also made a personal announcement related to a deep energy retrofit on a local building. Bob is hoping / planning to share updates about the work for local information.
 - Town report update
 - Submitted, brief update from Nick.
 - Funding opportunities

- EV Charging station grants progress
 - https://www.vlct.org/resource/ffa-program-tip-week?utm_source=CC&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=News+2023-0131
 - Nick gave a brief update. The tips above are useful, and help us to start thinking about what to do. An EV charger for the OSC is an area where a committee member is needed to step up and lead this.
- Electric buses?
 - RFP/RFQ is out, Mark Tucker indicated the due date was extended to Feb-23. More to come at the next meeting.
 - Bob mentioned a Canadian company that has been a leader in electric buses. He has driven it, it seemed well put together. Quebec / Ontario based. REV site likely has it.
- Food shelf funding?
 - Anne gave an update. She spoke with Glen about their cooler plans. He now has drawings for the cooler, but is concerned about finding a carpenter to do the work and finish it when they say. There are some other design details around a window, they are designing around this though. One or more grants already lined up, should be fully funded!
 - Nick mentioned that possibly the Central VT Habitat chapter would work on this. Nick will check with Habitat about this.
 - Mike asked if we could get a look at the plans for it. Anne is going to try and do so.
 - The Energy Committee may be able to help make an estimate for energy use of the new cooler vs existing refrigerator.
- OSC Building committee?
 - Mike gave an update. He connected with Sam Lash, the municipal audit program is taking applications soon/now-ish. They have a \$500k grant for work that is recommended for an energy assessment, and for audits as well. The grant is the Municipal Energy Resilience grants program Act 172.
 - <https://www.encyvermont.com/towns>
 - Nick mentioned Rich Baker's email. Rich is hoping to get an audit scheduled, which will enable to town to make a decision on the work.
 - Mike mentioned that he could do the audit. He also reached out to Building Energy, but they do not do audits for this type of building anymore. Mike will reach out to Rich Baker and give an update.
- Weatherization / Wood heat
 - Affordable heat act is being discussed in the legislature this year, second year in a row trying to reconcile it. Bob mentioned that some of these discussions are focusing on biofuels, and trying to get those included. There will be some legislative hearings about this. Biofuels are arguably not helpful, because the carbon is not being held captive. Unclear if lobbying is also going on from Vermont Natural Gas.
- Upper Winooski Community Solar
 - Nick shared the link below about help from other municipalities who have done this work already:
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqdOiuqD0iEtJcpBKMujQJ-2AjhovYsuZ2V>

- Ellen gave a brief update. They've been moving along, some things happening. They had not heard back from Kevin for a bit, who owes an assessment of the selected properties. Ellen got an email from Forest Farmers, who seemed interested as a possible location. Ellen mentioned a possible graduate program that they may get involved with to help do work to implement the project. They are also aware of some companies that help them, but only after the PUC work is completed.
- Wes gave a brief update. He was looking into installers / funders for this project, Green Lantern was one, the other was not very interested due to size. Green Lantern provided some advice, looking at different sites, and saw that the Forest Farmers had a site that could take a much larger array 0.5MW.
- Ellen mentioned that the three of them need to meet, and discuss next steps. They are waiting to hear back from Kevin, more to come at the next meeting.
- Wes is also considering one more place, Norwich Solar Technologies.
- Town Plan energy update
 - Nick to tackle this in the future.
 - Bob mentioned that this needs to be written so that a single person cannot stop this process.
 - Anne mentioned that local projects developing solar, could be treated preferentially.
- Window Dressers
 - Ellen had an update about this. Ellen made copies of the window dressers PDF (linked below). Ellen discussed some of the details of the program. This program is in areas that Ellen really admires (affordable, community building, energy reduction). There is a big commitment if Marshfield were to start a community build group. The PDF has details about the commitment, but suggested to have 4-10 core volunteers, for at least 3-5 years.
 - Anne asked about a Montpelier group. Ellen is aware of a Montpelier group, but sounds like they are doing their thing. Combining with other communities could also lighten the load (Cabot, Plainfield, Peacham).
 - Ellen's current thinking is that this is a big commitment, she isn't sure if the town can support this. Ellen is planning to go through the process, if she can, with Montpelier or another community. This would let her go through the process, and help figure out if it could work in Marshfield or surrounding communities.
 - Bob mentioned that his wife's cousin participated, and really likes the product, they seem to be well built and seal well. Bob also likes that it gets people involved with improving their own house.
 - Mike also thinks it's a great idea, and also a good middle ground instead of new windows, and also admires the community element.
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n08q7wRDEJvGjMs02gx6Sg7Xv3c-gpJp/view?usp=sharing>
- Buying IQair sensor for library loan?
 - Nick mentioned the idea of buying one of these sensors, and allowing the library to borrow it. Anne, Ellen, Wes, Mike agree this is a good tool for the energy committee to own.
 - Nick will reach out to Bobbi about this as an approved expense for the committee.
 - Mike mentioned coming up with a recommended guideline for the PM10 and CO2 levels what is recommended.

- Anne suggested a workshop for this could be of interest.
- <https://www.iqair.com/us/air-quality-monitors>
- <https://bildequinox.com/news/?article=featured-article-build-equinox-announces-healthy-indoor-air-quality-standard-for-the-new-year>
- Marshfield Solar update
 - Nick still waiting for the GMP bill changes to kick in. Some increased electrical usage going on in the municipality that Bobbi asked Nick to look into. Nick plans to look into this soon at Bobbi's request.
 - Bob mentioned that GMP's website has some analytics tools. Need to go on with the account number for the municipal meters.
- Selectboard visit:
 - Marshfield Dam
 - Permission for building energy audit?
 - EV grant permission / awareness?
- Appreciation event/gesture for Rich.
 - Not discussed tonight.
- Tentative agenda for March meeting:
 - Public Comments
 - Announcements
 - Agenda Modifications
 - Approval of previous minutes
 - Committee Business:
 - Town Meeting? March meeting is the 6th of March.
 - Funding Opportunities / Legislative updates
 - EV Grant funding
 - Electric Bus grant update
 - Food Shelf updates
 - OSC Building Committee
 - Weatherization & Wood Heat
 - Upper Winooski Community Solar
 - Town Plan Energy Update
 - Window Dressers
 - Marshfield Municipal Solar
 - IQAir sensor update
 - Selectboard items:
 - Marshfield dam tour
 - Electric usage increases
 - EV Grant permission to proceed

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3332233374?pwd=M0NJamtVRERVK2Z5TFdWRIJ5a1RUZz09>

Or dial in: 1-301-715-8592 / Meeting ID: 333 223 3374 / Passcode: 124891