

## Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

March 6th, 20223

Old schoolhouse common & zoom

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

- Public Comments
- Announcements
  - VCLN “Plethora of funding...” March 24, 10-11:30: Nick to forward the email to the group.
    - Waterbury LEAP festival, April 15th. Nick to forward the email to the group.
    - VECAN Inflation Reduction Act updates page: Nick to forward the email to the group.
  - Anne mentioned that the second gardening workshop is this week, This Thursday at 6:30pm. Nico from East Hill will be sharing.
  - Mike mentioned they are hoping to be fossil fuel free this year.
  - Bob shared that 350VT delivered a lot of postcards to the statehouse. Affordable heat act is cleared thru senate, being weighed in on by the house. 350VT objections are mostly about “green fuels”, like wood, and that we shouldn’t use them.
  - On March 21st is “3rd act”, mostly folks over 60, arranged by Bill McKibben. A nationwide action on banks. Action will be in Burlington, Bob is aware of it, but not aware of a lot of details. Possible
  - Earth day actions with Extinction Rebellion and Declare Emergency week of action in the nation’s capital.
  - Standing Trees is looking to preserve the Green MTN National Forest in southern VT. Trying to prevent some clearcut logging of ~10,000-12,000 acres.
- Agenda Modifications
- Approval of previous minutes
  - February minutes motioned, seconded and approved.
- Committee Business:
  - Plainfield Updates
    - Town Meeting will not happen tomorrow, the town reports did not get into townspeople’s hands with adequate time. Sounds like sometime soon.
    - No other updates.
  - Town Meeting? March meeting is the 6th of March.
    - No discussion here. The committee did not take any actions for this year.
    - Anne suggested getting updated literature to use at next year’s town meeting.
  - Funding Opportunities / Legislative updates
    - EV Grant funding
      - No news, but there will be soon.
    - Electric Bus grant update
      - Nick gave a brief update on the electric bus. Looking like this will go through.
    - Food Shelf updates
      - Minor updates from Anne here. Sounds like finding a contractor is still ongoing.
  - OSC Building Committee
    - Mike gave a brief update. He reached out to Efficiency VT (who was offering free municipal building energy audits). Mike also reached out to Sam Lash for some info about funding available for this, but hasn’t heard back on either of these things. Mike will reach back out to Sam Lash. The money is not yet available, the program will open in the spring. Sounds like Rich Baker is willing to help with grant writing.
    - Mike is trying to figure out how to get the audit done sooner than later. He may try to do some of this informally and volunteer, sooner than later to keep the Building Committee moving.
- Weatherization & Wood Heat

- No updates this time.
- Upper Winooski Community Solar
  - Ellen had an update. They spoke with Mike Ferrel (sp?) from the Forest Farmers. They seem very interested, and willing to work with them as a possible site. Catamount also got back to them, with a proposal, but this site requires grazing and cultivating access, which complicates things. He has not yet given an estimate. SunCommon did give an estimate of around \$500,000 for a standard 150kW array. John has been busy, and Ellen is feeling the weight of this work on her shoulders. She has some ideas to try and get more people involved to help keep the project moving.
  - Nick to look for resources from other Energy Committees and see if any of these contacts would help.
- Town Plan Energy Update
  - Anne mentioned that there may be a planning commission coming back to life.
- Window Dressers
  - No updates. Ellen reached out to considering 2024, but that she is interested in going through the process. The person she contacted recommended speaking with Peacham / Barnett, who have a community build already. Montpelier also has a community build. Ellen is going to see if there is an opportunity for collaboration with Peacham / Barnett.
- Marshfield Municipal Solar
  - Still waiting for billing changes to kick in.
- IQAir sensor update
  - The selectboard seems supportive of this, but Nick to speak with them on the 7th.
  - Mike mentioned having some ideas and resources available when we loan this out.
- Selectboard items:
  - Marshfield dam tour
  - Electric usage increases
- Tentative agenda for next meeting:
  - Public Comments
  - Announcements
  - Agenda Modifications
  - Approval of previous minutes
  - Business
    - Plainfield updates
    - Town meeting comments / thoughts
    - Funding Opportunities / Legislative updates
      - EV charging grants / funding updates?
      - EV Bus grant updates
      - Food shelf updates
      - OSC Building committee updates
      - Weatherization and Wood Heat
    - Upper Winooski Community Solar
    - Enhanced Energy Plan / Town plan update
    - Window Dressers
    - Marshfield town municipal solar / GMP Billing changes
    - Selectboard items:
      - Air quality sensor
      - Marshfield Dam tour

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OR: <https://zoom.us/join> Meeting ID: 893 5709 0708 Passcode: 269497

OR: call 1 646-558-8656 Meeting ID: 893 5709 0708 Passcode: 269497