

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

May 1st, 2023

Old schoolhouse common & zoom

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

Public:

- Public Comments
- Announcements
 - Nick comments on VLCT training
 - VECAN "Spring Summit" coming up, June 3rd
- Agenda modification
 - None heard.
- Minutes approval
 - Motioned seconded and approved.
- Business
 - Plainfield Updates
 - Selectboard and other changes are in effect now. More to come.
 - Bob not in attendance.
 - OSC Lighting update
 - Anne gave an update. Jacob Gouge was here, so she talked with him about it. He said LED tubes are made to fit in fluorescent fixtures, so no need for a wiring change. Likely the selectboard could make a decision to procure a box.
 - Nick will talk with the selectboard about this.
 - Funding Opportunities / Legislative updates
 - Clean heat bill is with the Governor. TBD if he vetoes, or if the legislature overrides his veto.
 - EV Charging Station Grants
 - No updates at this time.
 - EV Bus updates
 - Mark Tucker was able to update the grant application, so Twinfield will be getting an EV bus. Likely not until next year, but great news.
 - OSC Building updates
 - Mike gave a brief update. There has not been a building committee meeting, but he has a brief update. Sam Lash outlined the grant process for us last time. Mike attended the webinar on the program (mostly the same as Sam laid out). The application process is not yet open for the audit grants. One option might be using the community grant money for an ADA compliance audit. In general it sounds like the grant program is very flexible.
 - Some discussion around the MERP grants. Mike has indicated there is plenty of time to apply for this, so not urgent to apply. Anne mentioned that as the program and volunteer coordinator for the Library, there are concerts, fall foliage festival, etc. Channeling this money towards an energy committee "booth" or something along these lines for tabling at events. Wes gave the example of the Plainfield Coop's wagon that they use for events.
 - Food shelf updates
 - Construction has started, the shell for the cooler has been started/built, and work is underway. Should be pretty close to being done.
 - Weatherization & wood heat updates
 - Nothing here this time.
 - Upper Winooski Community Solar update
 - Wes gave an update. They had a meeting at the Forest Farmers, Kevin from Catamount Solar was there, and they were discussing the suitability of doing a solar project on their property. Also to discuss a larger scale installation as a possibility. Some siting concerns did come up for the Forest Farmer site, which reduced available space. Ellen gave a brief update. Kevin was looking into the siting concerns to figure out how much they could fit. They also had a recommendation to have the Vermont Law School help out

with the application process, but this takes a while. It might save some money, but takes longer to complete. Anne mentioned a local lawyer who has helped with setting up the legal foundation for some co-ops, and other local organizations. Some questions about next steps, and how to proceed. They are still getting interest from community members, and working to channel that to help out as they can. Ellen has some ideas about public events to help promote this, but more work to do before they are ready to do that. Anne mentioned a presenter who came to the OSC a while back who might be helpful, Jeff (?)

- Enhanced Energy Plan / Town update
 - More to come on this topic now that the planning commission has been reformed.
- Window Dressers
 - Ellen had an update. She reached out to the “southern Caledonia county” team, who were not willing to come to Marshfield to measure. But the Hardwick team was interested, and may be willing to come to Marshfield for this. Ellen is planning to volunteer for this to meet their required number of hours to get the window.
- Marshfield Municipal Solar / GMP Bill updates
 - Nick gave an update here. There were some GMP billing changes, as well the solar incentive is gone. More to come here.
- Selectboard Items:
 - Marshfield Dam tour / Selectboard Visit
 - This is developing, but no clear date yet. The Selectboard is being asked to schedule this. Nick to follow up.
 - Town plan update
 - Air quality Sensor handout feedback
- Tentative agenda for next time:
 - Public Comments
 - Announcements
 - Agenda modification
 - Minutes approval
 - Business
 - Plainfield Updates
 - Funding Opportunities / Legislative updates
 - EV Charging Station Grants
 - EV Bus updates
 - OSC Building updates
 - Food shelf updates
 - Weatherization & wood heat updates
 - MERP / \$4000 Community grant ideas?
 - Upper Winooski Community Solar update
 - Enhanced Energy Plan / Town update
 - Window Dressers
 - Marshfield Municipal Solar / GMP Bill updates
 - Selectboard Items:
 - OSC Lighting update
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 - Air quality Sensor

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

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