

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

July 3rd, 2023

Old schoolhouse common & zoom

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

Public: Rich Phillips, Ben St. James, Hannah Morgan,

- Public Comments
 - Couple of attendees from the public here. Mostly here to observe.
- Announcements
 - Library concert series coming up, every Thursday. Summer fun series is every Wednesday with Marshfield Rec Committee.
 - Anne mentioned the fall foliage festival is coming up, and that we should start making a plan for this and how to make it awesome.
- Agenda modifications
 - Open meeting law
- Approval of previous minutes
 - June 5th meeting minutes. 3 yea with 1 abstention.
- Business:
 - Plainfield updates
 - No updates from Bob this time.
 - Open meeting law
 - Nick shared the open meeting law docs with the committee. Will brush up on this for next meeting.
 - Jaquith AC request for help
 - Nick gave a brief update about AC units and the help request from Susan. The upstairs will take a window unit, the downstairs will need a portable.
 - Mike suggested contacting efficiency VT about if the portable unit would be on their list. Nick to reach out.
 - Residential energy building standard update from Mike
 - Mike gave an update. Insulation requirements are going up, especially in raised cathedral ceilings. Air changes is going from 3 to 2 ACH50. Balanced ventilation with heat recovery of 75%.
 - Nick asked for his thoughts on these.
 - Mike mentioned that the air changes per hour will likely be tough, but should be able to be met with attention to detail.
 - Bronn AI meets the 75% energy recovery level, and there are some other units available.
 - Some discussion around the cost of the new energy standard, and how much this will drive up new building costs. Mike had a few DIY style comments on building your own ERV. Mike also talked about rebates for heat pump hot water heaters and what incentives are available.
 - Rich mentioned on the enforcement side of things, when the building is sold there may be challenges.
- Funding Opportunities / Legislative updates:
 - MERP update / OSC building committee
 - <https://centralvtplanning.org/programs/energy/municipal-energy-resilience-grant-program/>
 - Mike had an update here. The application process is opening "soon", so hopefully that opens in the next couple weeks. There can be up to \$500k awarded to towns for energy related projects, building efficiency projects, energy generation, EV charging, etc. Efficiency VT is lining up companies to do "investment grade" audits, which is what the town would want. So getting them scheduled to do the audit. Monies are being awarded based on need. Moving things towards electrification.
 - Some information they want up front:
 - Square footage, usage for 5 years, history of improvements, etc. Mike is starting to collect some of this information and get things lined up to submit the application.

- Mike briefly discussed the village / town split and if that could be combined with the town to work together on this. Up to five buildings can be included.
 - Will Schwarz is the contact for the Fire Station.
 - Bobbi or Rich Baker can let him know who for the town garage.
 - Meg Eberhart is the village contact, should be on the Village website.
- Mike is going to start pulling this info together and will reach out as help is needed to get the application going and submitted.
- Mike also mentioned the \$4000 community grant, it has a rolling application process that is open now.
- Nick mentioned the discussion with the selectboard and LED lights. They were not enthusiastic about spending money and recommended combining it with MERP / community improvements.
- EV Bus for Twinfield
 - Nick mentioned the status of the EV bus grant. This is awarded to TUS, and expected to be delivered in early 2024.
 - Rich suggested making an announcement on FPF to applaud Mark's work here. Nick will work on this.
- Food shelf walk-in update
 - Anne gave an update here, very close to completion. They need to rent a lift to install the AC, very close! Glen is planning to get rid of their refrigerators one at a time to figure out which is most efficient, and which they should keep or get rid of.
- Upper Winooski Community Solar update
 - Wes gave an update here. Not a lot since the last meeting, they are having a hard time getting the information they need from the developers/installers that they're talking to. The Forest Farmers site could be a 500kW site pretty easily, or a 500kW and a 150kW site. The 150kW size site is less supported by developers, too small for many developers these days.
 - Wes indicated they need to come to a consensus about a site to move forward with, and a more firm idea of what all of it is going to cost, and how to fund it.
 - Rich asked about when the group meets, and how to get involved. Wes indicated that they don't have a scheduled meeting in place, but they meet when needed. Wes thinks the 150kW size is the way to go, and he favors a particular site.
 - Mike suggested talking to Maple Hill School and figure out if they want to be a large offtaker for this group. Rich suggests trying to get something in front of the board for that school once they have a proposal.
- Enhanced Energy Plan update
 - Sam Lash "enhanced energy plan starter kit". Nick to review this.
 - Nick spoke with the planning commission, and they are asking for a draft as soon as possible, in order to get this warned etc. ahead of town meeting. Michelle mentioned September being a goal.
 - Nick to get a draft going here and will plan to bring this to the next committee meeting for discussion.
- Window Dressers update
 - Ellen is departing the committee, but is continuing to pursue Window Dressers.
 - Mike mentioned that Sam Lash / CVRPC has some interest in helping get window dressers going for this region. Mike connected Ellen and Sam, sounds like more to come on this.
- Marshfield Municipal Solar additions
 - Nick to tackle this after the Enhanced Energy Plan. It's possible that the MERP money could be used to fund this.
- Selectboard Items
 - Dam Visit / GMP visit update
 - Nick gave a brief update.
 - OSC lighting update

- The Selectboard is hoping to fund these using MERP money. No interest at this time. If a committee member can tackle a payback calculation on these that might win them over.
- Air quality sensor
 - Mike wondered if the \$4000 community MERP money could be used to help with education/materials/something that would help towards this effort.
 - DIY air filters. DIY ERV's.
- Tentative agenda for next time:
 - Public comments
 - Announcements
 - Agenda modifications
 - Approval of previous minutes
 - Business
 - Plainfield Updates
 - Jaquith AC request for help
 - Funding opportunities / Legislative updates
 - MERP / Marshfield Municipal upgrades
 - Food shelf walk-in update
 - Updates from Upper Winooski community solar group
 - Enhanced Energy plan update
 - Discussion about fall foliage festival
 - Window Dresser updates
 - Marshfield Municipal Solar update
 - Selectboard items
 - Dam updates?
 - MERP/ OSC?
 - Air quality sensor

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81831083283?pwd=NFNXZVFwdWxUTmhJeHlvdUhjalZBZz09>

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