

## Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

October 2nd, 2023

Old schoolhouse common & zoom

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

Public: Rich Phillips

### Agenda:

- Public Comments
- Announcements
  - Anne announced a new book available at the Jaquith called “Earth for All”.
  - Standing Tree is holding an event on better use of our forests. Bob has details and will share them.
- Agenda modifications
  - None tonight.
- Approval of previous minutes.
  - Will approve next meeting, were late being sent.
- Business
  - Plainfield updates
    - Update from Bob related to MERP. he found out that Plainfield is one of the most heavily burdened energy towns in the state. They were given \$4k to promote weatherization, and the go ahead for municipal building professional audits. Bob is wrangling up information for the municipal buildings on energy use and fuel use. Tracking e.g. town garage wood stove usage is tricky.
    - Bob went to the Energy Action Network summit the other day. He found that people were humbled, and realizing that climate change is “on their back doorstep”, which was different. Some moving personal anecdotes.
    - Nick mentioned the downtown plug in Plainfield needs some attention (coin box broken, button on the charge cable sporadically working)
  - Funding opportunities / legislative updates
    - MERP application status
      - Our application was approved for MERP and audits approved for the buildings requested as level 2 audits, no word yet for buildings at level 1.
      - Rich asked about timing. Mike said it keeps changing, deadlines moving out. They are going to reach out to Mike to schedule the audits in the fall/winter timeframe, so he isn’t sure when.
      - The next step will be coordinating with the auditing contractors doing the Level 2 audit, and come onsite for that. Their report will be used to figure out what to do for improvements.
      - Mike has a little more work to do to talk about the effect of the July flood on this building based on feedback from Justin Campbell or Michelle McCormick. So e.g. a foundation drain, sump pump, fixing elevator foundation crack.
    - Food shelf walk-in fridge update
      - Nick received a Kill-a-watt, which might help with monitoring the food shelf refrigerators.
      - Nick will reach out to Glenn Sturgis (?) or Anne may as well, to try and help encourage them to move to a single freezer or two. 802-229-5613 may be his number.
  - Upper Winooski community solar
    - Rich talked with Kathleen, Ellen and Wes a bit about the community solar scenario. He will work on this for next month. Getting everyone aligned to meet has been the tough part, Rich is trying to get an agreement about that to keep it moving.
  - Enhanced energy plan update
    - Nick reviewed and discussed some of the language from the 2018 Enhanced Energy Plan draft. Some discussion of how to update or change language from that draft to better suit our understanding. E.g. wood burning isn’t actually very good.

- Nick plans to have a draft of this ready for discussion at the next energy committee meeting in november. Also known at that time will be what the Planning Commission needs for timing to get this completed, and approved in time for town meeting.
    - Bob mentioned that the Energy Action Network annual report is out, and it has plenty of data which might be helpful for developing a path.
  - Fall foliage festival
    - Nick shared an update on some discussions with Michelle from Efficiency VT. Her perspective was helpful to understand where the areas of biggest impact are for the energy committee. Rich also shared his thoughts that he believes Energy Committees are a great means of providing education for residents of Marshfield. Rich talked about some committee history and reasons for focusing on that.
  - Marshfield municipal solar updates.
    - No updates here.
  - Selectboard items
    - No updates here.
  - Molly's falls dam brief update
    - Nick gave a brief update on a dam tour that happened today (October 2nd). Representative Mark Mihaly organized this, and is working on updated dam legislation that would move dams from PUC to the ANR for regulations. More to come on this.
  - Mike gave a brief update on some incentives for commercial refrigeration, water management, things along those lines.
  - Possible future projects:
    - Variable speed pump at the wastewater facility.
    - Increased Educational opportunities to connect folks in town with information and solutions.
    - Rich hopes to celebrate Susan's contribution
- Draft agenda for next meeting
  - Public Comments
  - Announcements
  - Agenda modifications
  - Approval of previous minutes.
  - Business
    - Plainfield updates
    - Legislative updates and funding opportunities:
      - MERP updates
      - Food shelf freezer update
    - Upper Winooski Community Solar
    - Enhanced Energy Plan updates
    - VECAN Conference coming up?

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

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