

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes
February 4th, 2024, 7:00pm
Old schoolhouse common & zoom

Members In attendance: Nick Seifert, Anne Miller, Wes Cate,
Public:

- Public Comment
 - No public present.
- Announcements
 - Anne announced that on Feb 27 Mike Caccavo will speak at the Library about how town governance works. 7pm
 - Town meeting on Sunday this year
 - Plainfield town meeting is in flux, possible delay. See Times Argus article.
 - Anne is hoping to get someone from the VT Dept of Health to have a presentation about indoor air quality.
 - Workshop coming up on February 18th, part of a garden series at the OSC. People are going to bring root veggie recipes, or things that will liven up. 1PM.
- Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - Motioned and approved to meet January meeting minutes.
- Business
 - Town Meeting:
 - Nick to reach out to Efficiency VT and get some of their latest promotions. Nick will also bring printouts.
 - Bring one or both air quality sensors.
 - Mike, Anne, and Wes all expressed interest in sitting for part of this time.
 - Plainfield updates
 - Plainfield got a grant from the MERP program for weatherization efforts. Maybe an energy fair, or some pizza, or along those lines. They were also awarded potential work, money, and audits, etc. Bob indicated that they have had four of the audits done already, a couple weeks back.
 - Bob is now working on rounding up the energy bills for the five buildings for the last five years. There are seven meters in town, so he has an idea of how to get them, but needs to be able to get down there.
 - Bob was at the REV conference and a former colleague who has moved into hydro consulting. They've made a couple visits to some local dams, trying to figure out opportunities to restart small hydro.
 - Town report sent - Brief review
 - Brief discussion about this.
 - Building committee / OSC stuff
 - Mike gave a brief update on the OSC building committee. Not much to say here yet, Mike is hoping to get this kicked off, but may not play an active role.
 - Food shelf stuff
 - Nick has had some chats with Glenn about the kill-a-watt. He is continuing to check energy use of the different freezers. More to come.
 - MERP
 - Mike had an update here. We've gotten notice that we were awarded an audit, but have not yet gotten any notification of when this will happen. Likely Marshfield is lower on the list because the energy burden for the town is not as high as other towns.

- Upper Winooski Community Solar
 - No updates.
- Enhanced Energy Plan
 - On hold, waiting for CVRPC.
- Air Quality Sensor loan handouts
 - CO₂ sensor (personal) willing to loan out - <https://aranet.com/products/aranet4/>
 - IQAir AirVisual Pro - soon to be available for loan from the library.
 - Wes is going to take the sensor and be a “beta tester” to get the handouts tested, and see how this goes.
 - Anne sounds interested as well, and would also take this for a week to try out after Wes.
 - Handouts on:
 - Basics of air quality
 - Handouts for the IQAir sensor to help understand it.
- Legislative updates
 - No updates.
- Funding opportunity:
 - EV Charger grant stuff
 - <https://www.chargevermont.com/>
 - <https://www.chargevermont.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-Level-3-DC-Fast-Charging-Requirements.pdf>
 - Needs a champion, Wes said he may have time.
 - Sustainable Energy For Schools & Municipalities
 - <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/renewables/clean-energy-development-fund-cedf/funding-opportunities-projects>
 - Mike brought this grant up. Many of the grant areas could apply to the OSC and could fund a bunch of different work at the OSC. Max grant is \$250k, min amount is \$25k, cost share is 20% for the town. Mike put in a question about this grant related to improving some of the OSC’s heating system. Mike to discuss at the Selectboard meeting tomorrow. Part of the work for this needs an air quality sensor.
- Future areas of work:
 - More solar for Marshfield, and MERP may help here.
 - Variable speed pumps / evaluate efficiency of town waste & water facilities
 - Thank you event / something for Susan, for Rich
 - Areas for education / interaction with community members around energy, heat, efficiency, climate, etc
 - Electric Vehicle charging at the OSC.
 - New members! (with time! And technical expertise!)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3332233374?pwd=M0NJamtVRERVK2Z5TFdWRIJ5a1RUZz09&omn=88632203965>

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