

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 6th, 2025, 7:00pm  
Old Schoolhouse Common & Zoom

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

Public:

- Public Comment
  - none.
- Announcements
  - Anne announced they are having a “Gardener’s summit” on Sunday at 1pm at the OSC. It’s meant to be a forum to discuss how climate change is impacting folks’ gardening habits, tips that are working, things like that.
  - Mike mentioned that the Better Building by Design conference is in April. His company is doing the closing session. “2030 on the horizon, assessing Vermont’s vision versus reality” is the topic; their session will be about how they find opportunities to do more in their projects.
  - Wes mentioned he was talking with the general manager of the Plainfield co-op about moving to the old Plainfield Hardware building. Some people in Plainfield village are disappointed about having to travel further to patronize the store. Wes mentioned some interest in a ride-sharing setup. Anne reminded folks about the “hitching post” idea that was raised with RAMP, but then fell to the wayside due to COVID. Wes mentioned the Coop management indicated they’re not able to tackle this at present, due to their move busyness, but perhaps afterwards.
  - Mike mentioned the January 20th special meeting of the selectboard related to the cell phone tower proposal across from the VT flower farm.
- Agenda modifications
  - Window dressers email to me
    - Nick shared the email with the committee and asked for interest. Anne reminded us of previous discussions and the commitment they ask for.
    - Wes mentioned some interest in helping with measurements. Mike mentioned interest and willingness to do a blower door test before/after.
    - Nick will respond and politely decline but will reach out to Ellen Keene about her interest in participating.
    - Could use MERP mini-grant to pay for work on this.
  - Bekah Kuster email
    - Nick shared an update email from Bekah Kuster at Efficiency VT with the latest rebates and incentives etc.
    - Nick will forward this email to the committee.
- Approval of Previous Minutes
  - Motioned and approved.
- Business
  - Plainfield updates
    - No Bob.
  - Resident survey

- No Rich tonight
- MERP / OSC
  - Marshfield is officially not getting MERP. officially!
  - Marshfield does still have the mini-grant.
  - Related to OSC stove work:
    - The Dec 17 selectboard did not have time to hear from me. Nick attending the Jan 7th meeting. Main question is, Will the Selectboard be OK adding two 240v outlets to the kitchen or not.
    - Mike also offered, he recently purchased an EMF meter and offered the idea to take readings of the induction stove to help combat misconceptions about EM fields.
    - Mike mentioned an OSC water heater that could be replaced and would save money.
- Funding opportunities
  - Some current Efficiency VT rebates shared with the group, from Bekah Kuster.
- Village water / report from 20-year audit
  - Nick shared the response from Art Gilman and will pass along an efficiency VT contact.
- Town report
  - Nick will write this up and send to Bobbi.
- Recruitment
- Possible future areas of work
  - More solar for Marshfield
  - Enhanced Energy Plan
  - EV funding opportunities
  - Recruitment
  - Upper Winooski Community Solar
  - Areas of education / interaction
- Tentative February 2025 Agenda:
  - Public Comment
  - Announcements
  - Agenda Modifications
  - Approval of Previous Minutes
  - Business
    - Plainfield Updates
    - Resident Survey
    - MERP / OSC
    - Funding opportunities
    - Village water / report from 20-year audit
    - Recruitment
    - Future areas of work

Join Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3332233374?pwd=M0NJamtVRERVK2Z5TFdWRIJ5a1RUZz09&omn=86036737825>

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