

## **MINUTES - Unapproved**

### **Dummerston Energy Committee – September 8, 2014**

**Members present:** Will Collins, Stan ("Smokey") Howe, Alex Wilson, and Jerelyn Wilson (Chair)

Members absent: Bill Conley (Vice Chair), Larry Doucette

Others present: Tad Montgomery, Catie Berg, Alice Maes, Michael Fedoruk

#### **Meeting called to order at 6:14**

##### **1. Approved minutes 8/4/14.**

Alex moved to approve minutes, Will seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Jerelyn will send to Bob for posting on the website. Also will confirm with Town Office staff about posting locations.

##### **2. Committee membership.**

Bill is facing health problems and has asked to take a leave of absence  
There was a decision to accept that request as long as we don't identify two candidates  
Committee has one open position and is also seeking a volunteer to take notes for the monthly minutes.  
Jerelyn will send out a message to some of her contacts  
Will will mention the opening at a Transition Dummerston meeting  
Jerelyn will ask Suzanne Griefen of the Dummerston Community Church

##### **3. Vermont Open Meeting Law.**

Jerelyn reviewed new law  
She attended a meeting about that  
We're getting support from the Town office in posting agendas and minutes

##### **4. Lighting Update.**

Smokey reported on the lighting upgrade  
It turns out that his last contact has retired, which explains why he hadn't heard back; Smokey has a new contact at GMP; a work ticket has been created and the west lights will be replaced soon. This will complete the agreement Dummerston has with EVT.

##### **5. Residential Energy Survey Data.**

Will gave an update  
He used data from CVPS and GMP in creating a few charts to provide context  
He will try to collect similar information from fuel oil suppliers  
Jerelyn to e-mail survey summary documents to Will

## 6. Views of Dummerston. (Deadline: September 23)

Catie Berg to write an article on Button Up Day; she will pass to Jerelyn for review.

## 7. Solarize and Community Solar Projects.

Jerelyn introduced issue

School has backed out of a local community solar system, planning instead to be part of a state program

It may be possible to find another anchor customer to replace the school

Tad Montgomery reported on Windham Solid Waste solar system

Through legislative effort, succeeded in getting cap raised to 5 MB (from 500 kW normal cap)

WSWMD hired an owner's rep

Municipalities and schools can buy into this system

Michael Fedoruk led discussion on Solarize Dummerston

Would like to see both components remain part of the picture (community solar plus distributed solar systems on or outside of houses)

He is contacting committee members to see if others were contacted

Transition Dummerston meeting 6-9 pm Friday, Sept 26 at Dummerston church will focus on Solarize

He looked into several community solar systems: Peter Thurrell's and Clean Energy Collective (Nick Ziter)

Learning about various concerns, such as theft of panels

He feels that an in-person meeting would be useful and will organize that

Potential for follow-up at the Transition Dummerston meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>

Desired outcomes:

What will Solarize Dummerston be?

What are our major questions?

Start developing FAQs

Start working on the RFP

(Sarah Simons a good contact – Upper Valley)

Figure out which individuals are committed to the Task Force

Ask why individuals at the meeting are excited about this

Figure out who will lead it

Should this be a Dummerston project, or include other towns?

Tad discussed his Solarize efforts

Townshend, Windham, Westminster

RGS (Real Goods Solar) put a proposal together and those towns have supported that approach

RGS taking the lead with that program

Monday, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting at the Grad Center 5-7 pm Guy Payne and Paul Cameron are organizing it

Sent by Tad in advance:

You are probably aware that the Windham Solid Waste District has gotten special legislative approval for a 5 MW group net metered array on the

capped landfill on Old Ferry Rd. The wording that we got for the legislation specifically states that portions of the array can be owned by municipalities and businesses in Windham County. With the economy of scale that such a large array can garner, and the fact that it's on a landfill, and owners can keep their REC's, perhaps it's something that you-all in Dummerston might want to consider. I've been working with the District on this project for a couple years in a volunteer capacity. They just hired an owner's rep. for the project and will probably issue an RFP for the project developer by the end of this year. It will, of course, need to be built by the end of 2016 to capture the federal Investment Tax Credits that will be expiring then.

We are launching Solarize initiatives this month in Westminster, Townshend and Windham. I presented last night to the Windham Select Board and got a standing ovation at the end of it, which was strange and humbling. They couldn't endorse our plan, but asked their energy coordinator to form a committee to take it on in collaboration with the Windham Community Association. We have kickoff events scheduled as follows:

Sept. 11th, Th., Westminster Institute (Route 5) 6-8 PM  
Sept. 18th, Th., Townshend Town Hall 6-8 PM  
Sept. 25th, Th. (tentative), Windham Meeting House, 6-8 PM  
[end of material sent by Tad]

## **8. Other**

Catie Berg reported on plans for Button-Up Vermont Day  
To be held on Saturday, November 1, from Noon to 4:00 P.M.  
Will be held at the Dummerston School  
She is putting the program together  
Seeking discounts from local hardware stores, door prizes  
VNRC contest  
Working on publicity plan  
Alice Maes offered to help with publicity  
Jerelyn to ask about receipt of the \$500

**Next meeting:** October 6, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

**Adjourned 7:47 pm.**

## **Terms of DEC committee members (7 members, 3-year terms)**

Bill Conley	2015
Jerelyn Wilson	2015
Larry Doucette	2015
Stan Howe	2016
Alex Wilson	2016
Will Collins	2016

Diana Lischer-Goodband (term ended 3/13)  
Chris Derby (term ended 3/12)  
Suzanne Weinberg (resigned 2/11)  
Bob Sherwood (resigned 1/11)

Sam Farwell (term ended 3/14)