

## **Dummerston Energy Committee – November 3, 2014**

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

**Guests:** Catie Berg (later in meeting)

**Members absent:** Bill Conley (Vice Chair)

Meeting called to order at 6:10 pm

### **1. Approval of minutes from meeting on 10/6/14**

Alex moved, Will seconded approval of the minutes from 10/6/14. Passed unanimously.

### **2. Committee membership**

Larry's neighbors haven't gotten back to him; Ken Fields declined to join

### **3. Lighting update**

Seven out of 11 street lights on West Street have now been replaced

The rest will be replaced by the end of the year

Lights are 6,000K (cool white; that's all they offer; Smokey tried to specify warmer)

### **4. Residential energy survey data**

Will reviewed results

Difficult to translate the additional surveys; the formats were different

Over one-third of residents responded (N = 367)

He wasn't able to compile vehicle information; data not consistent

Heating: Overall, the average heating oil use is 43%;

    Cordwood: only 5% rely 100% on cordwood; average is 29%

    Oil is the greatest, followed by cordwood, then (significantly lower) propane

Water heating: 44% use standard electric; 5.4% solar

Annual electricity use: respondents often didn't respond correctly

Air conditioning: 50.4% use air conditioning; mostly window or wall units; 2.7% central A/C

Renewable energy use: Wood most common; 7.65% solar-electric; 5.74% solar hot water

    Check Excel spreadsheet; one respondent has wind

Home energy improvements (last 20 years): 1/3 added wall insulation; 1/3 attic insulation;

    21% have done an audit; only 2.8% have made no improvements; 74% lighting upgrades

Power outage: 55.6% use wood stove + 5.7% wood furnace; 20% have no heat option

    27% have generators; 21.3% gasoline; 6.0 propane; 0.3% diesel (some multifuel)

Drinking water: stored water the highest 68.5%; only 1 person with hand pump; a few with solar

Heating water during outage: 27.8% no option; may have been confusing given cooking results

Cooking: only 9% couldn't cook

**Action:** We should write up for *Views of Dummerston* with recommendations

    Due mid-December; aim to draft and review at next meeting

Alex to draft article for *Views*; circulate to committee

## **5. Solarize and community solar**

Smokey reported

Presented at Transition Dummerston on 10/24; one person decided to join Community Solar

Continued meetings; next one is Sunday, 11/9/14, 6-8 pm

At last meeting got a lot of traction moving forward

Smokey found RFPs online and is pulling paragraphs from various RFPs out there

Plan to not use tiered pricing

Working on FAQs; created a website (Humon) for communications in committee

Stickney Brook site – Peter Thurrell apologized for not communicating better

Will be two separate RFPs most likely – still evaluating whether we want one or two

Smokey now leading the effort

## **6. Button up Vermont Day - November 1<sup>st</sup>, Noon to 4:00 at the Dummerston School**

Jerelyn thanked Catie Berg for running that

Catie reviewed event, thanked DEC members who were there

Generally lower participation than had hoped for

Catie to write letter to the editor of the Reformer

Strategizing about next year

Bob Glennon's comments about the building

Leaky door in his classroom; lots of low-hanging fruit

Is there something the Energy Committee could help make happen?

Possibility of energy audit – DEC could pay for it

Helping the school

DEC could offer to pay for an energy audit

We should research options for paying for energy audit

**Action:** Larry will explore what organization can help

Something like the Vermont Association of Superintendents

**Action:** Jerelyn to call Jo-Carol to ask whether an energy audit has been done

## **7. Views of Dummerston**

Addressed above

## **8. Other/Community input**

No other community members

## **Other business**

Budget request

- Decision to ask for \$350 (level-funded from 2014)
- Funds to be used for:
  - Community education
  - Solarize

- Follow-up on survey
- School energy conservation efforts

**Action:** Jerelyn to submit budget to Selectboard

**Next meeting - Monday December 1, 2014**

**Meeting adjourned 7:50 pm**