

2015 Dummerston Energy Committee

Meeting date Monday, June 01, 2015 6 pm at the Dummerston Town Office

DRAFT meeting minutes Present: Alex Wilson, Wil Collins, Stan Howe and Larry Doucette. Absent Julien Geiser

1. Approve minutes from April 06 meeting

Stan moved, Alex seconded. Approved unanimously.

Larry Doucette sent approved minutes to Laurie at the Town and will email to Bob Sherwood for posting

2. Collecting 2010 baseline data for assessing progress toward energy goal in Town plan

We have municipal energy consumption data from 2005 – 2011 along with that of certain other buildings (Grange, Historical Society); Electric data from Green Mountain Power is easy to obtain; Data shows average consumption by residential customers is 7,036 kWh (2010); That level of consumption satisfied by a 6 kW solar array – relevant to Solarize

How to know where we are toward the 40% reduction goal—and do we have a real baseline at this point?

Actions:

1. Focus on the school and municipality. Fill in the municipal energy consumption spreadsheet (STOCC (spreadsheet) – reference 1/18/15 email from Smokey with spreadsheet), convert all those numbers to MBtu (million Btus)

***Stan** will add the new values for the Fire Stations (west and center) to the spreadsheet data.

2. Compile the Town-wide electricity consumption—municipal, residential, commercial; plot on a spreadsheet that we can add to every year or every five years.

*Progressing. There are a few buildings missing energy consumption data and the intent is to track down that data to better complete the spreadsheet.

***Larry** attempt to acquire energy data for the Historical society, propane for school, Dummerston school buses, Dummerston Grange.

3. Figure out the process for determining the baseline and periodically assessing progress for fuel oil and propane. Reach out to fuel providers to see if that data can be collected.

PER LAST MEETING MINUTES: discussion?

COMPLETE: Center Station, West Station – annual data since 2010 for oil for both locations and electric for Center Station; distributed to group

Smokey: GMP town wide electricity 2010 to current use for residential, commercial and municipal. Ongoing.

Alex & Wil: average oil and propane consumption for residential to use as a multiplier

Alex and Wil: will do some digging on transportation; likely have to rely on standard figures;

Will & Alex: will look into City Guide – taps into census data; number of vehicles to commute to work....; also will help with getting data from the school; Will has been sharing emails regarding his reach out to school officials that might help.

Aim to put this information together at the next meeting.....

Larry will contact select board to suggest a brief presentation in the near future.....The presentation will include DEC accomplishments and the Solarize Dummerston efforts and status and more.

4. **Wil** has drafted a letter (out to members for review/comments) Consider advocating for the collection of energy consumption data on a statewide basis through legislation. Reference Will's 12/5/14 email about the **Massachusetts energy planning document** (pages 3-8)

3. Residential energy survey – February 2014 retreat has summary of discussion about community survey; Have a Power Point with survey data.

DEC article on the survey results was published in the Winter/Spring 2015 issue of *Views of Dummerston*; do we want a longer version to post that on the DEC website?

* Do we want to archive Views of Dummerston articles (and potentially others) on Dummerston.org – Energy web Page? *We as a committee are considering having a link to Dummerston views on the DEC web site.

NEXT AGENDA ITEM: The web page discussion was tabled and will be added to next meeting agenda to completely go through the web page and make suggested changes and additions, etc. Potential action item for Julien to work with Bob Sherwood and make suggested changes to web page.

Alex potentially offered to write an article for the next *Views*, Deadline is June 09.....

4. Dummerston School

Sam Farwell will continue to act as liaison between Schoolboard and Energy committee. Sam and Dan Normandeau are now the School Board “energy committee”

Will visited the Dummerston school and acquired a school board members list.

***Larry will contact Amy Wall to get a spot on the agenda for a future school board meeting to discuss the details associated with Dummerston school over using oil and electricity as pointed out in their internal energy audit. Will acquire potential meeting dates and distribute to committee.**

Topics for discussion:

- Show data that reflects schools large portion of energy consumption
- Show energy assessment that was done with strategies that have not been addressed
- Mention Bob Glennon's concern about simple weather stripping
- Discuss benefits of switching from oil to pellets – **Alex** will look into a new program that may support school conversions from oil to wood pellet heat
- Mention possibility Commons Energy, subsidiary of VEIC (PPESCO) – Smokey will look into this

A. Smokey heard about an ESCO-type organization (nonprofit) that can help a school reduce energy use. There may be a free audit component of that. COMMONS ENERGY? Smokey learned of some interesting financing options at the VECAN conference for schools and municipalities including a free energy audit. They promised to post the presentations soon.

Consideration of a wood pellet heating system—given the RFP that's out to support the installation of such systems. See Alex's email 12/3/14 with attached RFP

5. Town solar energy efforts

* **Timeline** – launch RFP this week, installers have 9 days for questions, 6 days to respond, RFP due 5/1/15, announce installer by 5/29, launch event in June, customer sign up period 5/29 – 9/26/15. March of 2016 might be last of

installations;

Stan's update: Selected installers and notifying them.

Installers are Sovern for Community systems. Integrated Solar for roof top and fixed ground mount. SolarFlec for tracker ground mount.

Planning educational and informational public forum and mass mailing to those that expressed interested and let the process begin. Continue to meet every Thursday evening.

6. Committee membership

Continually Need to attract new members; maybe come up with something to attract members.

Larry to solicit a copy of the open meeting law to determine specifications and requirements. The DEC would like to reduce members number to 5 for ease of meeting quorum in future. Will distribute rules when acquired

7. Button Up Day

Conclusion: Dummerston will NOT have a button up day. All will consider participation in other events. No further action.

8. Energy committee budget

Previous meeting: approved periodic requests for \$100 donations for energy audits and **“create guidelines for using the balance of the anonymous donation”**.

NO guidelines needed. will be determined as any request come in or IF any request come in.

Larry will ask Laurie to be on the distribution for account balance to be informed of money status.

9. 2015 Priorities for Energy Committee

1. School

Will is working through emails and communication to make connections

2. Solarize Dummerston

Work with task force to support implementation of the plan

3. Dummerston energy consumption – benchmarking

- a. Continue with benchmarking 2010 energy consumption in town
- b. Seek data from fuel providers
- c. Continue charting that data if we can normalize it
- d. Further evaluating and making use of survey results

4. Fill out Energy Committee

Likely need three new members OR reduce member number to 5

DEC mission statement: The committee supports the town in monitoring locally important energy issues and developments, and promoting energy conservation, efficiency, and increased use of renewable resources. Using education, projects, and advocacy, the DEC will help Dummerston and its residents reduce their reliance on polluting forms of energy and achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy goal in Town Plan: To reduce total per-capita non-renewable energy consumption 40% by 2030 from a 2010 baseline

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

Larry Doucette (just reappointed)	2018
Stan Howe	2016
Alex Wilson	2016
Will Collins	2016
Julien Geiser new member (thanks for joining)	2018