

2015 Dummerston Energy Committee
Monday, July 06, 2015 6 pm at the Dummerston Town Office

DRAFT MINUTES

*Meeting commenced at 6:06pm. In attendance, Larry, Smokey, Alex and Julien.
Absent: Will Collins*

1. Approve minutes from June 01 meeting

Alex Wilson moved, Stan seconded. Approved unanimously.

Larry Doucette or volunteer to send them to Pam/Laurie at the Town and K.E. Ryan for posting

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

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 Task Force

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

Actions for 2015:

1. Focus on the school and municipality. Continue to Fill in the municipal energy consumption spreadsheet (STOCC (Small Town Carbon Calculator) – See 07/02/15 email from Smokey with updated spreadsheet)

Stan completed the action of updating spread sheet.

Smokey commented that he believes the STOCC is the best tool to use in order to normalize all of the energy use data that we are collecting. How often should we be collecting this data? Every five years has been the goal but we are already again due for that (first 2010 data and now it is 2015). Alex suggested that perhaps we should gather the data again in 2020 at the half-way point between 2010-2030 and reassess the frequency based on how much the data has changed at that point. Perhaps we track the “easy” stuff on a one-year basis (e.g. school, municipal buildings and electricity data that can be gathered from Green Mountain Power) so that it can be plotted showing trends. The more difficult, residential data can be collected on a 10 year basis. It could also be important to notify residents and the Selectboard at least 12 months in advance so that they are aware of our need for the data. This also ties into letter to state government that Will has drafted (to be discussed later) requesting state-wide mandated energy consumption reporting by utilities.

Smokey commented that an annual report might not be Jan-Dec if we are looking at different budgets or the heating/cooling season.

Smokey: GMP town wide electricity 2010 to current use for residential, commercial and municipal.
Smokey has completed this tasker.

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

Alex: will do some digging on transportation; likely have to rely on standard figures;
Alex to continue working on this tasker.

Will: 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.....

Will was not present at this meeting but will be back for the August meeting with more information on this task.

Larry reached out to select board for proposed meeting dates to present our status. Larry will provide the Select Board email response and discuss dates and what new presentation should look like. Would want as many DEC members as available at whatever select board meeting is decided to attend and present. Must be discussed and plans going forward.

Alex suggested that we wait until fall to generate a presentation for the Selectboard since we will then have some good information on Solarize Dummerston project as well as some potential updates on the school's plans for energy efficiency improvements.

4. Discuss Will's drafted letter to state of VT to request the collection of energy consumption data on a statewide basis through legislation. See Will's letter emailed to all.

All members of committee saw and reviewed Will's draft letter. Will was absent but has informed us that the letter has not been sent as he expected the committee President to send that finalized letter.

3. Residential energy survey

DEC article on the energy results was published in the Winter/Spring 2015 issue of *Views of Dummerston*; article on resilience information coming out in next issue

Do we want a longer (or consolidated) version to post that on the DEC website, along with the quantitative results?

Do we want to archive *Views of Dummerston* articles (and potentially others) on Dummerston.org – Energy Page?

Once we figure out what is going on with the DEC website, we plan to post Survey data to the DEC website perhaps along with both of Alex's articles.

4. Dummerston School (we want to focus on helping the school be more efficient)

Dan Normandeau is leader of the School Board "Energy Committee"

Larry, Stan and Alex attended a school board meeting 06/09.

Larry, Smokey and Alex met with the school board on 6 June after our last meeting. They proposed working more closely with the school board and their Energy Committee. We suggested an energy audit to the school board and that we would even provide some funds to help pay for that. Currently they conduct a walk through audit every 3-5 years of the school buildings. There is also potential of collaboration with the WWHI. Larry commented that the meeting was a success.

Larry and Alex attended a Wood Heat Initiative (WWHI) meeting at the school on June 25. Can discuss that event.

Principal (Jo Carol Ratti) of Dummerston School was at the Windham Wood Heat Initiative meeting on June 25th. WWHI received \$1.6 million from Vermont Yankee (VY) funds to help support part of the installation cost of these systems. WWHI is interested in getting Dummerston school on wood pellet system (boiler and

water heater). Alex has been advocating to have Dummerston school second in line to get the wood pellet system and he proposed that DEC would help explain and sell (it would require a bond vote to raise up to \$200,000 for the project) the idea to the town through a town meeting or by meeting with the Selectboard. Potential for a 24-month turn around, installation of systems starting summer 2016. Alex and Larry also received a tour of some of the school's mechanical systems and met with now-retired and new custodial manager.

Consensus that Solarize Dummerston and WWHI should be our primary focus over the next 12 months. WWHI could be a good instrument for getting the school to be more energy efficient. Part of WWHI participation requirements could be an energy audit to improve building weatherization and air tightness prior to installing the wood pellet system.

5. Town solar energy efforts

Request Stanley provide an update and status of the Solarize Dummerston effort.

Solarize Dummerston kick-off meeting was a great success. Two financial institutions and three solar installers (Integrated Solar – roof top and ground mount systems, Soveren – community solar, Solaflect – suspension trackers) were present and approx. 30 residents were in attendance. 105 leads for solar on the website, many proposals have been submitted but only 1 contract has been signed as of today. Next event would be a Solarize 101 class and our next deadline is 30 August which will be the cutoff date for signed contracts with price commitment. At that point resident customers would no longer get the benefit of the tiered price system.

Weekly Solarize Dummerston meeting takes place Thursdays at 6:30pm in the Town Office.

6. Committee membership

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

All members to keep touting the camaraderie, great work and outstanding benefits of being on the DEC.

7. Energy committee budget

Larry to work on getting actual budget numbers from town office personnel and that will become a part of our monthly meeting minutes. We would like to help the school with performing a blower door test/energy audit. Also discussed possibility of supporting Solarize Dummerston events with purchase of refreshments, t-shirts and other items.

8. DEC web site needs thorough review and updating.

Need to figure out how many DEC websites there are and who is maintaining them. Julien volunteered to determine the 5 Ws concerning the website. Suggestion to potentially convert the website to Wordpress or some other third party site that can be maintained by members of the DEC more regularly. Julien to contact Bob Sherwood and Kevin Ryan (maintains town website) about the websites. Larry to pass contact information for Bob and Kevin to Julien.

9. Alex moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15, Julien seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

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	2018