

DRAFT MINUTES
2015 Dummerston Energy Committee
Monday, September 07, 2015 6 pm at the Dummerston Town Office

1. Approve minutes from August 03 meeting

Meeting commenced at 6:01pm, Larry Doucette, Smokey Howe and Julien Geiser in attendance. Alex Wilson arrived at 6:13pm.

Julien moved to approve the August minutes, Smokey seconded. Approved by Larry, Smokey and Julien. Larry Doucette or volunteer to send notes 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

Committee continues to work on how to know where we are toward the 40% reduction goal—and do we have a real baseline at this point.

NOTES: Target is every 10 years. There was standard discussion and that frequency is acceptable.

DISCUSSION: Consider that as of January 2016, we will collect all 2015 data. We will collect all energy used by town and cost of energy. Use Smokey's spreadsheet to collect all those data points once we close out 2015.

Actions for 2015:

1. Focus on the school and municipality. Continue to fill in the municipal energy consumption spreadsheet.

NOTES: Ongoing efforts to continue working on this item.

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

NOTES: Ongoing efforts to continue working on this item.

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

NOTES: the reach out has been done and worked within reason. The oil companies do a fair job of tracking oil use at specific addresses or businesses. We can reach out as necessary to oil and propane providers. The Request letter to state of VT two senators and two representatives, was sent and we hope for support from state to collect data.

Senator Becca Balint and Rep David Deen. Senator Jeanette White and Rep Michael Mrowicki.

Larry mailed it 09/02 via email.

Any discussion?

DISCUSSION: We received responses from Windham representatives and senators but they were pretty standard political responses. Perhaps Alex or someone has a POC at the state that we could forward this letter on to for greater action/interest.

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

NOTES: information not ready for this meeting.

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

NOTES: information not ready for this meeting.

Will: will look into City-data web page – There is information 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.

3. Residential energy survey –

NOTES: Will suggested a summary document to explain what was learned from survey and all the “Do and Don’t” lessons. We can capture the desire to make questions more precise, unable to answer vaguely, the need to always keep select board informed, etc. Will offered to take first cut at creation of such document. Status and discussion?

DISCUSSION: If Will has a summary document or rough outline, the DEC would be happy to review it and potentially contribute content to it.

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

See Alex’s email notes

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.

Discussion and next action.

DISCUSSION: Larry to communicate with Laurie, Town Treasurer, to get a DEC account balance. Is there anyone who has children at the Dummerston School who might be able to do a blower door test (would need 2-3 blowers) as an in-kind donation to the school and their assessment as they plan for the making a decision with WWHI.

MOTION: Alex moved to allocate \$1500 to the Dummerston school energy audit assuming that DEC has at least \$2,000 in our account and that the School Board would like the funds, Larry seconded the motion. All members present in favor of the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Town solar energy efforts

Discussion and update

DISCUSSION: 120 leads as of today, with 18 systems for a total of 82.8 KW under contract. 18 working days left until the end of the deadline, 30 September. Soveren Solar has hit the next, cheaper tier.

6. Covered bridge lights need repairs

Status and discussion

7. Energy committee budget

NOTES: Larry will follow-up with Dummerston Treasurer to ask more about the account.

8. DEC web site needs thorough walk through and corrections and changes.

NOTES: Julien could not attend previous meeting but provided great update for web progress Julien offered and proposed the following goals over the coming month for DEC:

- create a Weebly account for us (pass site name, username, password onto committee members)*
- reach out to different parties to gather information that might make sense to have on the site (Alex’s articles, all previous minutes from Larry/Alex), links and relevant articles for Solarize Dummerston from Smokey*
- post those resources to the website once I have gathered them all*

Committee discussion: consider a WORD PRESS type web page, user friendly and low cost, etc. Could ask Dan Hoviss for help if needed (he helped Solarize and created their web page)

Status and Discussion

DISCUSSION: Daniel Hoviss had suggested WordPress and committee agrees that this might be the best template for the DEC website. Could also work with Kevin Ryan to get a sub domain name that ties right into the Dummerston town website. Julien has received all information from Bob Sherwood that has previously been posted to the old DEC website.

9. Increased cost of electricity in Dummerston

1. Alex notified the DEC that Laurie, Town Treasurer, has noticed that the town electricity bill has almost doubled over the past two months. Smokey agreed to call Laurie and get some details so that he could figure out what is going on. Unsure whether that doubling is for the town office only, Smokey to find out more. *Smokey to work with Laurie and provide update to DEC when he finds out more.*

10. View of Dummerston Articles

1. If we don't have anything to publish, Alex suggested using old Brattleboro Reformer articles that he had previously published
2. Solarize Dummerston – Smokey to provide new numbers and an update on Solarize Dummerston for this upcoming Views, deadline of 22Sep.
3. Front Porch Forum participation – Julien suggested an article that talked about FPF as a tool for resilience in a community. Alex thought that this was a good idea but that perhaps the new DEC website may have been a means for publicizing this once it is updated.

11. 2015 Priorities for Energy Committee

1. Dummerston School Energy Consumption REDUCTION
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. Continually seek data from fuel providers
 - c. Continue charting that data if we can normalize it
 - d. Further evaluating and making use of survey results

12. Alex moved to adjourn the meeting, Julien seconded the motion. All were in favor, meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

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