

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
2015 Dummerston Energy Committee
Monday, November 09, 2015 6 pm at the Dummerston Town Office

In attendance: Larry Doucette, William Collins, Stanley Howe and Julien Geiser

1. Approve minutes from Sept.meeting

Stanley moved, Will seconded. September Minutes Approved

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 for assessment.

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.

Update from Stan for the recent electric bill anomaly recognized by the town office and they requested his help. Findings, solutions, any actions going forward?

Stanley had recommended that updates get made to fixtures at the town garage because they are incredibly inefficient fixtures that are contributing to the higher electric bill.

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

Any discussion?

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

Will: will look into City-data web page – There is information taps into census data; number of vehicles to commute to work

- Alex was not in attendance but will provide update at next meeting.

4. New item: Larry brought up the building of a potential new Dummerston Center fire station. They are out getting quotes at this point and the DEC would like to consult on energy system design when that becomes a consideration.

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?

- Will plans to complete this tasker in the near future.

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.

School has updated DEC with status of energy audit. See emails

School has updated DEC with intent to pursue increased efficiency. See emails

Discussion and next action?

- They have completed the blower door test but not received the results yet and they will be moving forward with the energy audit/walkthrough in the coming weeks. They have not asked for any funding from the DEC but are moving forward with energy improvements. Larry to ask for the blower door test and energy audit results.

5. Town solar energy project Completion

Summary from Stan. Discussion and update

- Stanley received final numbers for Solarize Dummerston initiative, 114.6kW was contracted in Dummerston, a total of 24 contracts out of 128 interested parties. Average new system size in town is 4.7kW. Stanley happy with the results and there is talk within the Solarize Dummerston committee of maybe conducting a similar initiative next year depending on how Vermont state incentives evolve.

6. Covered bridge lights need repairs

Summary from Stan. Status and discussion

- Stanley reported that 4-5 of the drivers have failed since the 2010 install. Phillips who initially donated the fixtures says that the drivers are not longer being manufactured. Stanley recommended to the Selectboard that they consider installing lightning strike and surge protection on the bridge to protect the fixtures and fire panel. He also informed them that he would do further research on other fixtures. Committee discussed whether it might make sense to reach out to some LED manufacturers and see whether other donations might be made to the Town of Dummerston. Larry to ask Laurie about the town's 501c3 status and make sure that we can potentially receive a donation of fixtures.

7. Energy committee budget

Discuss potential amount if Dummerston School request assistance paying for energy audit

- Larry needs to provide 2016 budget by 19 November to Laurie. Stanley proposed that we use some of our current funds to do energy audits and blower door tests on some of the other town buildings. Everyone was in agreement on a request for \$350 for the 2016 budget.

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

Status and Discussion

- Julien has opened a Wordpress account for the Dummerston Energy Committee and is working on transitioning all of the data from the existing website to the new website. Discusses use of Front Porch Forum as a good tool for developing a more resilient community in Dummerston. Will proposed that perhaps an end of year email with the results of the Solarize Dummerston program and information about the new website and Front Porch Forum.

9. Working Meetings

- Julien had emailed the committee concerning the idea of having working meetings from time to time. This is something that has been done in the past for sub-committee meetings or for the town survey. Everyone was in agreement that this would be a good idea and that it should be a tool that anyone feels comfortable suggesting and using in the future.

10. 2015 DEC Summary

- Larry to put together the 2015 DEC summary and agreed to circulate it to the DEC for review before submittal. Both Jerelyn (previous member) and Alex may have some good input to add to the summary.

11. 2015 Priorities for Energy Committee

1. Dummerston School Energy Consumption REDUCTION
2. 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

Will moved to adjourn at 7:03pm, Julien seconded the motion.

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