

Approved December Meeting Minutes
2015 Dummerston Energy Committee
Monday, December 7th, 2015 6 pm at the Dummerston Town Office

Meeting started promptly at 6pm, in attendance were Larry Doucette, Stan Howe, William Collins, Alex Wilson and Julien Geiser

1. Approve minutes from November meeting

Julien moved to approve, William seconded the motion. November minutes were unanimously approved. 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: Discussed that the DEC would work to collect the 2015 municipal energy usage data early in January. Stan will have the spreadsheets ready for recording and DEC members will volunteer to assist in collecting the data.

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?

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?

Notes: We discussed that statistics on residential heating oil/propane usage could be received from suppliers if desired. Alex did discover that the Transportation Energy Data Ed. 34 dtd August 2015 is published by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and that most recent data found that 11,300 miles is the American household vehicle's average annual mileage. In 2014, cars comprised 48% of light vehicle sales and that light trucks comprised 52%. In 2013, fuel economy for cars was 25.2 mpg and light trucks was 18.8 mpg. Stan proposed that perhaps we could gather some vehicle registration data from the DMV to determine that number and type of each vehicle registered to Dummerston residents and then extrapolate some gas/diesel usage numbers from that combined data.

Will has looked into city census data but believed that Alex's information was much more robust than anything that he had yet found.

3. Residential energy survey –

Notes: Will has prepared and circulated notes and recommendations for making the next residential energy survey better. This will be archived by the DEC and turned over to future committee members to ensure that they benefit from our lessons learned. Most importantly he pointed out that the questions could be better designed by a data analyst and that the questionnaire could also be used as an educational tool.

4. Fire Department Building Project

Notes: DEC determined that since the Town of Dummerston pays the Fire Department an annual budget to cover operating costs that the DEC should get a chance to review the plans for the new Center Station Fire Department. Alex suggested that perhaps the FD Building Committee should consider multiple use of the new building as a way to increase interest and financial support. Larry will gather the names of the Building Committee, the DEC will work on a list of questions for the committee and we will also extend an invitation for them to join us at one of our upcoming meetings.

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

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?

Notes: Larry has confirmed with the school that the DEC will receive a copy of their energy audit upon completion of all the required steps of that process. Larry will also follow up with the school on the status of the WWHI. Alex was interested to know whether the school would be interested in getting into some of the subsidized solar energy programs. Larry to add this to his request for information from the school later this week.

6. Covered bridge lights need repairs

Notes: Stan has not been able to find any other avenues for getting the lights fixed. Drivers for the light fixtures are no longer being manufactured according to the manufacturer and we have received the last "known to man". Larry was able to confirm with the Town Treasurer that we are able to receive charitable contributions from outside organizations. Alex is going to send an email to the point of origin for the fixture donations and we will continue to explore possible replacement from either Phillips or another manufacturer.

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

Notes: Julien proposed using Square Space or Weebly since he found that Wordpress doesn't seem to be the best platform for a website that might be updated by different members over the life of the site. Alex suggested that he propose that idea to Kevin Ryan and see if he has any recommendations. Julien is also to conduct some research into establishing a cloud based file server where the DEC members can all store and access files.

8. DEC Retreat

Notes: Alex suggested that perhaps we work to gain some new committee members and then consider having a retreat later in 2016. Stan suggested that perhaps we could ask the Dummerston School principal to gauge interest amongst school teachers.

Julien moved to adjourn meeting at 7:17pm, Alex seconded the motion.

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

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.