

DRAFT Minutes
2016 Dummerston Energy Committee
Monday, February 01, 2016 6 pm at the Dummerston Town Office

Members present Wil, Stan and Larry.

1. Approve minutes from January meeting

Wil moved, _____ Stan seconded. Approved

Julien or volunteer to send approved minutes/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.

Continual/ongoing efforts

Actions for 2016:

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.

Continual/ongoing efforts

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

Discuss the report provided by Amy Wall regarding the November 2015 boiler feasibility study and Heating Energy audit by Windham Wood Heat Initiative and Dynamic Integrations.

The DEC members have reviewed the Pellet Boiler Feasibility Study dated Nov 2015.

NEW questions for school board associated with Pellet boiler: Has any decision been made associated with moving forward for any pellet burning project initiatives? If the answer is NO, is there any intent or schedule for further discussions, etc? If the answer is YES, is there any to make the proposal part of the Dummerston town meeting agenda or open discussion?

NEW question for Dummerston School Board associated with potential future solar project: Has the Dummerston School Board had any discussion or decisions made associated with the large scale community solar projects brought up months ago? If the answer is NO, is any discussion planned for future? If answer is YES, was there any discussion about the renewable energy credits associated with solar?

4. Covered bridge lights need repairs or replacement

Nothing new for covered bridge lights. Trying to locate potential replacement drivers (internal components)

5. DEC web site.

The DEC members provided all their notes and files to Julien for storage at common location

Update provided by Julien via email because he could not attend meeting. Much new progress for common file storage location as well as DEC web site development. Thanks Julien!!!!

6. 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

3. Attempts to acquire additional members??? Looking ahead with numerous members potentially leaving 2016.

Stan provide data from facebook solicitation and Front Porch NO responses.

Larry provide data from School members solicitation NO responses.

Wil offered to research the Transition Dummerston Group for potential new candidates to join DEC.

2016 new goals and discussions???? Informal meeting, always welcome new items

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

Decision made to research the specific wording in the town plan associated with Dummerston Energy Goals.

Stan Howe to reach out to Sam Farewell for some details and access to historical documents.

Can the wording possibly be changed or enhanced in an effort to better suit our purpose and goals.

added items to Meeting

1. Alex attended the Selectboard meeting last Wednesday, and Allard Lumber is putting in an application for a Certificate of Public Good for a 149 kW wood-chip-fired co-gen plant at their lumber kiln. Allard Lumber spans Brattleboro and Dummerston, but the co-gen plant would be on the Dummerston side. The SB is writing a letter of endorsement, and I said that I would bring this up at the next DEC meeting so that we might also provide a letter of support if it isn't too late. Dan Ingold, who attended the meeting on behalf of Allard, said that timing would be fine and that such a letter of support would be appreciated. They do not plan to sell the RECs, and if they can't get a net-metering agreement with GMP, due to the 15% cap on renewables, they will probably go ahead with the project totally on their side of the meter. Heat from the plant will be used for a lumber kiln, and the power will provide 80% of their electricity.

The DEC will contact the Dummerston Select Board and ask for a few additional details associated with Allard project. The DEC is fairly confident we would support, just need additional details of how the energy generation will be accomplished (any by products, waste, efficiency, etc.).

The DEC will contact the Dummerston Select Board to inquire if any such letter has already been written in support of the Allard Lumber project.

2. The Rutland Resolution that Alex referred to emerged from an anti-wind and anti-solar group in Rutland. Although the resolution is written to sound very reasonable (about giving local towns a say in siting of these systems), support of the resolution by towns is being used by some as evidence that Vermont is turning against renewables. So I spoke against the SB signing onto the resolution, and they chose not to. (I think they would have decided that even if I hadn't been there.) I don't think any action is required by DEC.

TABLED