

Minutes
Dummerston Energy Committee
Monday, November 6, 2017 @ 6pm
Dummerston Town Office

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:09pm: Eric Lineback, Peter Thurrell and Smokey Howe were in attendance.
2. Reviewed agenda: Added Sam Farwell's request concerning WRC's solicitation regarding developing an Act 174 compliant town energy planning element for the town plan (#15 below).
3. Approved minutes from October 2, 2017 meeting: Peter moved, Smokey seconded, unanimously approved.
4. Portfolio Manager for municipal buildings – update: Eric has created a profile and accepted Smokey's request as a contact. Will still needs to accept the contact request. All others need to create a user profile and notify Smokey with their user name. It has been discovered that no emails are sent at each step, so one has to log onto the site and look for messages. Smokey will send a separate email to the group explaining further.
5. DEC website – update: Eric is working on the new Resources section. Links to resources have been collected, but more work to be done, and still looking for additional links from Peter.
6. Discussion of energy chapter of Town Plan: Eric discussed an update from Sam Farwell. Apparently the Planning Commission worked off of an old version (from November 2016) of the town energy plan, and the hemp paragraph did not make it into the latest version. Eric will follow up with Sam.

7. Transition Dummerston and Vermont Button-Up Day event follow-up: Smokey reported a small turnout (about 5 people?), but there was a great presentation by Farnum Insulators, and information on the energy audit rebates was communicated. Smokey will forward the email from Catie regarding the rules and guidelines for the home energy audit \$100 incentive/rebate to the committee. We agreed that these types of events should be recorded and posted on the website for on-demand viewing in the future.
8. Sustainable Home Tour follow-up: This item will be added to the next meeting agenda, as Alex was not present.
9. Covered bridge LED lights – update: Nothing to report at this time. Smokey will work on a proposal for our next meeting.
10. New Vermont wind energy rules: There was discussion as to whether the committee should take a formal position on the new rules, in particular regarding sound limitations. Peter will draft something to be sent to LCAR.
<https://www.vpirg.org/issues/clean-energy/wind-sound-rules-approved-by-lcar/>
11. DEC report for 2017 Town Report (December 1st due date): Eric will talk to Alex about what goes into this report and assign responsibility for completing it.
12. Vermont Youth Climate Summit (December 1st @ UVM): They are looking for high school age groups to attend. Peter will reach out to the BUHS science department to see if they are planning on sending a group and to facilitate.
<https://vermontyouthclimatesummit.weebly.com/about.html>
13. Parsonage energy use: At the recent Transition Dummerston meeting, Smokey was asked if he would come look at the parsonage and help determine why the electricity use appeared to be abnormally high. Smokey, Sam Farwell and Charlie Richardson met there last Saturday. During a walkthrough of the property, the following items were noted:

- 2 refrigerators and 3 freezers are used in the garage for storing church pies, etc. Recommended consolidating product, monitoring energy use with a DEC wattmeter, and researching new Energy Star appliances.
- There is an approximately 80-gallon electric hot water heater with no blanket or insulation.
- There are multiple window air conditioners.
- The laundry appliances are outdated.

After the meeting, links to Efficiency VT rebates for related appliances were sent via email.

14. WCREP grant – Phase II deadline extended to November 20: It appears to be pretty late to apply. Peter talked about state incentives for town-approved solar properties. Eric is interested in exploring a hemp biomass project. The synergy of hosting both on the same property was discussed. We will consider applying for a Phase III grant. <http://www.windhamregional.org/energy>
15. WRC solicitation regarding developing an Act 174 compliant town energy planning element for the town plan: We are interested in pursuing this. Peter will contact the WRC and the town Planning Commission for more info.
16. Vote Hemp 2017 Crop Report: The report was reviewed and discussed. Of note, Vermont hemp production increased 219% from 180 acres in 2016 to 575 acres in 2017.
17. DEC email address forwarding: We think only Smokey and possibly Alex are receiving these emails from our web page email address. Eric will have the system updated accordingly.
18. Meeting adjourned @ 7:34pm.