

**Minutes**  
**Dummerston Energy Committee**  
**Monday, March 5, 2018 @ 6pm**  
**Dummerston Town Office**

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:11pm: Eric Lineback, Peter Thurrell and Smokey Howe were in attendance.
2. Welcomed guests: Calvin Farwell sat in on the meeting again to observe, as he is interested in joining the committee. He has submitted his letter of interest to the Selectboard.
3. Reviewed agenda: Added two items (#12 and #13 herein).
4. Approved minutes from February 5, 2018 meeting: Smokey moved, Eric seconded, unanimously approved.
5. Portfolio Manager for municipal buildings – update: Alex and Peter still need to each create a user profile and notify Smokey with their user name. Smokey will send them another reminder.
6. DEC website – update: Eric has compiled all submitted resources and will send the current list to the committee for review. Peter will add his selected solar resources. Calvin will add his selected local energy-related provider/vendor resources.
7. Covered bridge LED lights – update: Smokey still needs to contact the town office about the logistics of purchasing the required materials and will then order the new fixtures.
8. “No Idling” campaign – update: Eric will contact Lee Chamberlin at the Highway Department to determine their source for road signs. We agreed that having some info (a flyer?) explaining the benefits of limiting vehicle idling would be helpful to educate drivers. Peter will contact the folks in Putney (Daniel?) who ran a similar

campaign to see if he can get a copy of a flyer they had produced in the past. Alex still needs to contact JB Auto to see if they are willing to post a sign there. Everyone will think about other new locations for sign placement.

9. New Vermont wind energy rules (LCAR) and WRC REP regarding utility-scale wind energy potential in Windham County – DEC position statements: Eric will make final edits to the WRC letter and send it to the committee for approval. It will then be sent to the WRC and submitted to local newspapers. Peter will work on modifying the letter for sending to LCAR/PUC.

<https://www.vpirg.org/issues/clean-energy/wind-sound-rules-approved-by-lcar/>

<http://www.windhamregional.org/energy/act-174-energy-planning>

10. WRC solicitation regarding Act 174 – update: Peter discussed the research he has done on this item, including the concept of “substantial deference” which can be used by towns to oppose renewable energy projects. We agreed that this is a moot point, as we are actually interested in promoting these types of projects.
11. Next big project: [Promoting electric vehicles? Installing electric vehicle charging stations in Dummerston? VW settlement funds? Town-approved solar park? Local hemp production and processing? Heat pumps?]: We continued the discussion about potential new projects. We agreed that the idea of installing electric vehicle charging stations in town is not really viable or needed, as there are no locations that would make sense. We also discussed possible locations for a town-approved solar park, and Peter will look into local gravel pits as a future option. Peter will also look into the VW settlement funds as a source for grant funding.
12. Rich Earth Institute pilot project: REI is working with WRC as part of a national grant to set up a town-level pilot program for their urine recycling project. West Dummerston village is interested in participating and is considering applying. Here is more information from the REI announcement:

“Representatives from the Windham Regional Commission and the Rich Earth Institute will come to the Dummerston Selectboard meeting on Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> to be held at the West Dummerston Community Center to explain the new partnership project called the Village Sanitation Pilot Study. This competitive opportunity seeks to identify a village or neighborhood center in Windham County that would be a candidate in this voluntary and non-regulatory feasibility study. Ultimately, the results of this study would address water quality impacts, limits to desirable development, and financial challenges to homeowners and businesses through considering alternatives to conventional toilet and septic systems at a village-scale.

The meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup> will be a brief presentation on potential alternatives to the septic system, followed by a discussion about the details and benefits of being selected as a candidate village/neighborhood for this project. The WRC and the REI will explain: the expected outcomes of the project, benefits to the Town, benefits to the participating homeowners, the overall project timeline, and be available to answer any questions about how this pilot study can serve both individuals and the community as a whole.”

13. New state hemp legislation: Eric provided a brief overview of two bills working their way through the state legislature, which would align Vermont’s hems laws with the latest federal Farm Bill legislation as it applies to hemp. The bills include S.276 and S.255, both sponsored by Senator John Rodgers.

14. New business: None.

15. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm. Next meeting will be April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.