

**Minutes**  
**Dummerston Energy Committee**  
**Monday, December 10, 2018 @ 6pm**  
**Dummerston Town Office**

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:06pm:
  - a. Eric Lineback, Stan Howe, Calvin Farwell and Alex Wilson were in attendance.
2. Welcomed guests:
  - a. Maura Adams, Program Director for the Northern Forest Center, was in attendance to talk about their “Feel Good Heat” campaign (see item #5 below).
3. Reviewed agenda, added items as needed:
  - a. Added Sky Solar contract with town and billing confusion to agenda (see item #15 below).
4. Approved minutes from November 12, 2018 meeting:
  - a. Motioned by Calvin.
  - b. Seconded by Alex.
  - c. Unanimously approved.
5. Potential participation in Northern Forest Center’s “Feel Good Heat” campaign and WRC’s Windham Wood Heat Initiative – further discussion with guest Maura Adams:  
<https://feelgoodheat.org/>
  - a. Maura works for the Northern Forest Center, based in Concord, NH.
  - b. She discussed the documentary film “Burned: Are Trees the New Coal?” and the stigma that has carried over to all wood heating systems. Wood heat is far more efficient than wood for electricity as portrayed in the film.

- c. She discussed how not using low-grade wood for wood pellets/chips would negatively affect the overall forest product economy. She showed a graph that compared value vs. quantity in percentage between saw-logs, pulpwood and biomass, with saw-logs being the highest value but lowest quantity, while biomass is the lowest value but highest quantity.
  - d. Modern wood pellet boilers are 85% efficient or more, with some as high as 95% efficient. The big challenge is that most people don't know about the availability and effectiveness of wood pellet boilers and automated wood heating systems. Education is needed, which is what this initiative is about.
  - e. A discussion about the carbon neutrality of wood heat was held by all. Maura agreed to send us a copy of a recent life cycle analysis study on wood heat that shows a 54.5% reduction in the carbon footprint over the entire life cycle.
  - f. ACTION: We will all review the report and consider signing onto supporting the initiative.
6. Portfolio Manager for municipal buildings – update (Stan):
- a. No update at this time.
7. DEC website – update (Eric):
- a. No update at this time.
  - b. ACTION: Eric will follow up with Kevin.
8. “No Idling” campaign – update (Eric):
- a. ACTION: Eric will drop off a sign with Scott farm.
  - b. Stan stopped by the school and they want 2 more signs for the child pick-up lane.

- c. ACTION: Eric will compile a list of potential sites that have yet to be contacted.
  - d. ACTION: Eric will review docs and collateral from Brattleboro (BEC) for the purpose of creating an educational pamphlet and send all relevant docs to the committee for review.
9. Vermont Energy Climate Action Team – update (Alex):
- a. VECAT is a group from northern Vermont that Alex is a part of. At their last annual retreat he got promoting electric assist bicycles added to their priority list. A leader in the field, Dave Cohen of VBike, is based in Brattleboro.
  - b. ACTION: Alex will forward a copy of their 2019 draft plan for review.
10. Recent purchase of Maple Valley Ski Area: DEC involvement? – update (Eric):
- a. Eric has been keeping in touch with Keane who intends to attend a future meeting.
11. Potential funding opportunities for Park & Ride EV charging stations – update (Eric):
- a. Eric discovered that they are interested in the Route 30 town park & ride at the bridge versus the one off Route 91 on the Putney town line. He resubmitted the survey.
  - b. We discussed the viability and type of chargers that would be appropriate for that location.
  - c. We raised various questions: Who would pay for the electricity? Should we attempt to survey those who use the facility? Would Maple Valley Ski Area be a better location?
  - d. ACTION: All will consider the above questions and issues for further discussion.

12. Cost out new heat pump at town office to replace current AC and electric heat – update (Stan):

- a. Stan found that Efficiency Vermont offers a \$400 rebate if purchased through a qualified dealer, and there are 5 dealers in this area.
- b. ACTION: Stan will contact the local dealers and get quotes.

13. Potential future town purchase of Renaud gravel pit on Route 5 – update (Eric):

- a. No update at this time.

14. Future projects: Promote electric vehicles and electric bikes? Develop a town-approved solar park? Promote heat pumps?

15. Sky Solar contract with town and billing confusion (Stan):

- a. The deal was previously discussed by the committee in late 2016.
- b. Stan reviewed the analysis he completed. There is still some confusion, and it does not seem like the deal is saving the town very much.
- c. ACTION: All will review the analysis and discuss further at our next meeting. Then Stan will follow up with the town treasurer.

16. New business:

- a. No new business.

17. Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm. Next meeting will be January 7, 2019 at 6:00pm.