

Minutes
Dummerston Energy Committee
Monday, October 5, 2020 @ 6pm
Online via Zoom

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:16pm:
 - a. Eric Lineback, Calvin Farwell, Doug Morton and Alex Wilson were in attendance.
2. Welcomed guests: No guests were present.
3. Reviewed agenda: Added items as needed (see #13 below).
4. Approved minutes from the March 2, 2020 meeting:
 - a. Motioned by Eric; seconded by Alex; unanimously approved.
5. West Dummerston Fire Department:
 - a. Discussed the recent energy audit report prepared by Farnum.
 - b. Reviewed and discussed the follow-up report created by Doug, including suggested actions for improving energy efficiency; discussed suggested changes.
 - c. Discussed the idea of offering some DEC funds to help address the “low-hanging fruit.”
 - d. ACTION: Doug will add cost estimates.
 - e. ACTION: Doug will get door measurements and work on getting estimates for new doors.
 - f. ACTION: Alex will look into Efficiency Vermont options.
 - g. ACTION: Eric will edit and finalize the DEC report and send to WDFD.
6. Town annual budget request:
 - a. Discussed needs and current funds.

- b. Eric motioned to request no funds in the next fiscal town budget; seconded by Alex; unanimously approved.
 - c. ACTION: Eric will follow up with the Selectboard.
- 7. Global Warming Solutions Act (H.688):
 - a. Reviewed and discussed the legislation and its path to becoming law, as well as future impacts and considerations.
 - b. Alex has been asked to join the related Climate Council and is considering.
- 8. Micro-Transit Innovations Grant program:
 - a. Discussed the program; have had trouble finding information; will monitor.
- 9. All-Fuels Energy Efficiency program (Act 62):
 - a. Eric provided an update.
 - b. Discussed the preliminary report; final report is due in January of 2021.
- 10. Transportation & Climate Initiative (TCI):
 - a. Calvin provided an update.
 - b. The program has been put on hold due to the pandemic.
- 11. Proposed Brattleboro biomass facility (at Long Falls Paperboard):
 - a. Began discussing pros/cons and whether DEC should advocate for or against it; agreed to wait for feasibility study to be completed.
 - b. Turns out the project has been cancelled; the NBRC grant to BDCC was de-obligated on July 27.
 - c. ACTION: Eric will follow up with interested parties.
- 12. Commercial pellet boiler system for Dummerston school:
 - a. Began discussing pros/cons of converting school boiler system from oil to biomass.
 - b. Agreed that it doesn't make much sense to pursue anything until the future of the school is clear.

- c. A preliminary feasibility study was already conducted and published in July of 2012 (funded by USDA and WERC), which showed a potential ROI of 7.2%.
- d. ACTION: Alex will follow up and send a copy of that study to interested parties.

13. Advancements in fusion-based power generation:

- a. Calvin provided an update on exciting developments in fusion power research being conducted at MIT.
- b. A system being developed is showing promise, with a test model expected in approximately 3 years and potential commercial availability in roughly 10 years.

14. New business: No new business.

15. Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm. Next meeting will be held via Zoom on November 2, 2020 at 6:00pm.