

**2015 Dummerston Energy Committee**  
**Monday, April 6, 2015 6 pm at the Dummerston Town Office**

*(February meeting cancelled due to weather. March meeting cancelled due to illness.)*

Meeting convened: 6:05 pm

Members attending:

Alex Wilson, Stan Howe, Larry Doucette, Will Collins

Guests: Jerelyn Wilson, Julien Geiser

**1. Approve minutes from January retreat 1/18/15**

Larry moved, Will seconded. Approved unanimously.

Alex to send them to Laurie at the Town and Bob Sherwood for posting

**2. Introductions**

Julien Geiser, who is interested in joining the committee, described his background and interests: recently moved to Dummerston after three deployments in the Navy

**3. Electing officers of Committee**

Alex moved the slate of officers for one-year terms, Larry seconded, Approved unanimously.

**Chair:** Larry

**Vice chair:** Smokey

**Secretary:** Will

**4. Collecting 2010 baseline data for assessing progress toward energy goal in Town plan**

*We have municipal energy consumption data from 2005 – 2011 along with that of certain other buildings (Grange, West Dummerston Vol. Fire Dept., Historical Society); Electric data from Green Mountain Power is easy to obtain; Data shows average consumption by residential customers is 7,036 kWh (2010); That level of consumption satisfied by a 6 kW solar array – relevant to Solarize*

How to know where we are toward the 40% reduction goal—and do we have a real baseline at this point?

**Actions for 2015:**

1. Focus on the school and municipality. Fill in the municipal energy consumption spreadsheet (STOCC – See 1/18/15 email from Smokey with spreadsheet), convert all those numbers to MMBtu (million Btus)

2. Compile the Town-wide electricity consumption—municipal, residential, commercial; plot on a spreadsheet that we can add to every year or every five years.

3. Figure out the process for determining the baseline and periodically assessing progress for fuel oil and propane. Reach out to fuel providers to see if that data can be collected.

**Larry:** Center Station, West Station – annual data since 2010 for oil for both locations and electric for Center Station;

**Smokey:** GMP town wide electricity 2010 to current use for residential, commercial and municipal.

**Alex:** average oil and propane consumption for residential to use as a multiplier

**Alex:** will do some digging on transportation; likely have to rely on standard figures;

**Will:** will look into City Guide – taps into census data; number of vehicles to commute to work....; also will help with getting data from the school;

Aim to put this information together at the next meeting.....

**Larry** will suggest a brief presentation to the SB perhaps at an all-committee meeting or just to the SB in August.....

4. Consider advocating for the collection of energy consumption data on a statewide basis through legislation. See Will's 12/5/14 email about the **Massachusetts energy planning document** (see especially pages 3-8)

**5. Residential energy survey** – see full summary of discussion at February 2014 retreat about survey; Have a Power Point with survey data.

DEC article on the survey results was published in the Winter/Spring 2015 issue of *Views of Dummerston*;

Alex will write an article for the next *Views*, need to find out the date.....(we did not submit for the 3/31 deadline)

## **6. Dummerston School**

Sam Farwell will continue to act as liaison between Schoolboard and Energy committee. Sam and Dan Normandeau are now the School Board “energy committee”

**Will** to contact Sam and Dan and invite them to a meeting (or us to one of their meetings), and also communicate our desire to focus on the school.

### **Preparation for a meeting with School Board or with Dan N. and Sam F.**

- Show data that reflects schools large portion of energy consumption

- Show energy assessment that was done with strategies that have not been addressed
- Mention Bob Glennon's concern about simple weather stripping
- Discuss benefits of switching from oil to pellets – Alex will look into a new program that may support school conversions from oil to wood pellet heat
- Mention possibility Commons Energy, subsidiary of VEIC (PPESCO) – Smokey will look into this

*A. School is eligible for another audit during 2015; we'd like to know what the school has done since then to address recommendations; we would like to advocate for the 2015 school energy audit to include more detail including blower door testing.*

*See Larry's 12/12/14 email for PDF of previous school audit report*

**1/27/15 From:** Norm Etkind

*Hi Larry - - thanks for your note and interest in improving the energy efficiency of the Dummerston School. The way my program works is that I respond to requests from school administrators that want an energy assessment. I suggest you speak with the principal or business manager Frank Rucker about wanting to get an energy assessment done. My scope of work only includes the energy assessment. I don't know to what extent the school implemented the recommendations so I can't help you there. You may want to ask them. Norm*

*B. Smokey heard about an ESCO-type organization (nonprofit) that can help a school reduce energy use. There may be a free audit component of that.*

*Consideration of a wood pellet heating system—given the RFP that's out to support the installation of such systems. See Alex's email 12/3/14 with attached RFP*

*Smokey learned of some interesting financing options at the VECAN conference for schools and municipalities including a free energy audit. They promised to post the presentations soon.*

## **7. Town solar energy efforts**

A. Smokey shared the 17-page RFP which will be launched 4/9/15

**Timeline** – launch RFP this week, installers have 9 days for questions, 6 days to respond, RFP due 5/1/15, announce installer by 5/29, launch event in June, customer sign up period 5/29 – 9/26/15. March of 2016 might be last of installations;

Alex read correspondence from Zeke on how a 10% donation to the Town from a Sovereign community solar installation would need to function:

*On Mar 30, 2015, at 7:21 PM, Ezekiel Goodband wrote:*

*Alex,*

*Here's my understanding of how donations to a committee are done; Laurie may have something to say also.*

*Sovern would like to make yearly donations to help fund energy conservation projects in Dummerston. They would come to an agreement with the Town and make these donations to the Town of Dummerston. Part of the agreement may be that the funds are to be used for energy conservation projects, education, or to further the work of the DEC. Just like with the Farmland Fund and Farmland Committee, the DEC would be the committee that would come up with written guidelines on how these funds should be used, an application process for Townspeople, and the DEC would vet projects and make recommendations on how these funds are used. Spending authority rests with the Selectboard only, so projects would have to be run past the SB for approval.*

*I hope I've made this clear, please let me know if you have any questions. Please let us know how your discussions with Sovern go. Anytime you want to talk this over with the SB let us know and we'll put you on our agenda.*

*Zeke Goodband*

### **8. Committee membership**

Need to attract new members; if Julien is appointed by SB there will still be two seats open.

Larry was reappointed by SB

Jerelyn is now on the selectboard and will not continue with DEC

Bill opted not to seek reappointment

Julien Geiser has submitted a little of interest to the SB

### **9. Button Up Day**

Alex reported on his participation in a regional energy committee meeting on 1/20/15 in which he said that Dummerston would not be organizing a Button Up Workshop this year but hoped that another nearby town would choose to do so; it could be a rotating event. If someone hears of a surrounding town wanting to organize a Button Up Day, they can be in touch with Jerelyn who has all organizational files from Catie Berg.

### **10. Energy committee budget**

- a. Alex reported that our requested \$350 budget from the Town was approved by voters at Town Meeting.
- b. Smokey received a \$1,000 Grow Grant from New England Grassroots Environmental Fund to support Solarize Dummerston
- c. There is remaining money in the DEC account that had been earmarked for subsidizing energy audits of Dummerston residents.

Alex moved and Larry seconded a motion to approve periodic requests for \$100 donations for energy audits and create guidelines for using the balance of the anonymous donation. Approved unanimously.

Mention of this availability (until the funds run out) can be put in the *Views*.

**11. 2015 Priorities for Energy Committee from January DEC Retreat:**

1. School

- a. Figure out what was done following previous energy audit
- b. Push for new, better energy audit – Larry to look into that
- c. Follow through with recommendations that will come out of 2015 audit
- d. Establish tighter relations with school board
- e. Pursue pellet system

2. Solarize Dummerston

Work with task force to support implementation of the plan

3. Dummerston energy consumption – benchmarking

- a. Continue with benchmarking 2010 energy consumption in town
- b. Seek data from fuel providers
- c. Begin charting that data if we can normalize it
- d. Further reporting of survey results

4. Fill out Energy Committee (likely need three new members)

**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

**Terms of DEC committee members (7 members, 3-year terms)**

Larry Doucette (just reappointed)	2018
Stan Howe	2016
Alex Wilson	2016
Will Collins	2016

Jerelyn Wilson (term ended in 2015)

Bill Conley (term ended in 2015)

Sam Farwell (term ended 3/14)

Meeting adjourned: 7:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

-Jerelyn Wilson