

Minutes
Dummerston Energy Committee
Monday, April 2, 2018 @ 6pm
Dummerston Town Office

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:06pm: Smokey Howe, Alex Wilson, Eric Lineback, Calvin Farwell and Peter Thurrell were in attendance.
2. No guests were present.
3. Reviewed agenda: No new items.
4. Approved minutes from March 5, 2018 meeting:
 - a. Motioned by Peter.
 - b. Seconded by Alex.
 - c. Unanimously approved.
5. Portfolio Manager for municipal buildings – update (Stan):
 - a. Eric, Calvin and Alex are now set up and sharing (complete).
 - b. No progress for Peter yet.
 - c. Portfolio Manager 101 Training online @ 1pm Tuesday April 3, followed by 201 and 301 trainings on the following Tuesdays.
 - i. ACTION: Smokey will try to attend.
 - d. All should explore the site for discussion next month.
6. DEC website – update (Eric):
 - a. Eric is working on final links and updates.
 - b. Will go live soon; info will be accessible from the town website DEC page.
7. Covered bridge LED lights – update (Stan):
 - a. Stan finally got a town account set up for Grainger.com (supplier).

- b. Received an updated quote.
 - c. Ordered fixtures and parts.
 - d. Will schedule a DEC “work day” next month to install new fixtures and clean existing fixtures.
8. “No Idling” campaign – update (Eric):
- a. Eric received a quote on sign costs from the same vendor the town uses for street signage: 12x18” @ \$16 and 18x24” @ \$30 (no minimum order).
 - i. ACTION: Eric will place an order when sizes and quantities are determined.
 - b. Discussed possible locations for new sign placement: JB Auto, post office, school, KOA, various farms in town.
 - i. ACTION: Eric will talk to JB Auto.
 - ii. ACTION: Eric will find out where the old post office sign went.
 - iii. ACTION: Calvin will talk to the post office.
 - iv. ACTION: Peter will talk to KOA and the school.
 - v. ACTION: Alex will talk to Scott Farm.
 - c. Explored further the idea of handouts to explain the idling program and why it makes sense. Peter contacted the Putney folks for a copy of theirs, but they have none left and said it came from the Brattleboro Energy Committee.
 - i. ACTION: Alex will reach out to the BEC about getting a copy.
9. New Vermont wind energy rules (LCAR) and WRC REP regarding utility-scale wind energy potential in Windham County – DEC position statements (Eric):
- <https://www.vpirg.org/issues/clean-energy/wind-sound-rules-approved-by-lcar/>
- <http://www.windhamregional.org/energy/act-174-energy-planning>

- a. Eric reviewed the latest version of the plan and a summary of public comments to date on the WRC website. So far, 14 out of 17 comments submitted are similar to ours, and the latest version of the plan has modified or removed the language that we were concerned about regarding no further utility-scale wind development in our region ever. Thus, we feel there is no need to submit the DEC comments as drafted at this point.
- b. There will be two final public hearing meetings on April 9 (Townshend) and April 12 (Westminster).
 - i. ACTION: Eric will attend one of them and report back to DEC and the selectboard.

10. Followed up on recent WRC / REI presentation regarding proposed pilot project (Peter):

- a. Straightforward presentation; good attendance (~25 people?).
- b. It is a feasibility study only; no actual urine collection will take place.
- c. There was a good discussion of nitrates and the dangers of nitrates polluting rural water supplies.
- d. West Dummerston Village will be applying for consideration.

11. Reviewed VELCO packet regarding construction of the Southern Loop Transmission Upgrade Project (Alex):

- a. We received legal documentation via the selectboard about a large 20MW solar array (the Coolidge Solar Project) being installed in Ludlow and Cavendish which will require some upgrades to the local power substation. We determined these to be minor changes about which DEC has no concern.
 - i. ACTION: Alex will report back to the selectboard.

12. Update on new federal hemp legislation (Eric):

- a. Eric provided a brief overview of new federal hemp legislation that Senators Mitch McConnell, Ron Wyden and Rand Paul will be dropping soon (“The Hemp Farming Act of 2018”). The bill is expected to be more comprehensive than previous proposed bills. It will move federal control of hemp from the DEA to the USDA and most likely require states to submit their hemp regulations to the USDA for approval. The language may also be attached to the next Farm Bill. Sen. McConnell feels the bill will garner the support it needs to pass in the current cycle. We will keep on top of this as it relates to Vermont’s growing hemp industry and related state laws.

13. Next big project: Promoting electric vehicles? VW settlement funds? Town-approved solar park? Heat pumps?

- a. We continued to discuss all of the above ideas.
 - i. ACTION: Peter will follow up with Renaud about considering their gravel pit as a potential future site for a town PV solar park.
- b. We added a new idea to the mix: installing electric car charging station(s) and/or a canopy PV solar system at the Putney Park & Ride location on the town line off Route 91. It is possible that the VW settlement funds could be used for this purpose.
 - i. ACTION: Alex will follow up with our local state legislators about this idea and gather more information.

14. New business: None.

15. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm. Next meeting will be May 7 at 6:00pm.