

# WALLINGFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

## Minutes of the January 8, 2019 Meeting

Ken Welch called the meeting to order at 6:32. Present: John Armstrong, Nick Benjamin, Doug Blodgett, Katherine MacLauchlan, Ralph Nimtz, Ken Welch and Jay White.

Jay moved that the December minutes be approved so long as an error in dates was corrected. There was no objection.

**Energy Plan.** Ken asked John for a progress report on the plan. "It's fermenting," John replied. "The holidays were enjoyable but hectic. I will return to work soon and will be having a meeting with RRPC some time in January."

Ken suggested that at next month's meeting we talk about a public information event in late March or early April. John added that this should include the kind of publicity in Front Porch Forum and the press we did for the presentation last January.

**Electric Vehicles.** Ken asked about the charging grant and reported learning that there are a lot of details required to make it viable. He also wondered whether we have given up pursuing money for an electric school bus. Nick argued that the real purpose of going after a school bus grant is that it would be a good way to introduce Wallingford residents to the electrification of transportation. Jay pointed out that Wallingford no longer has any school busses and that the school district decided against applying for a bus grant. Ken offered to get in touch with people at the district.

**The Odd Fellows Building.** "That building has good bones but I understand there are some serious problems facing the new owner," Ken explained. Katherine commented that this includes a beam that needs shoring up. "Michelle needs to address the non sexy stuff first." Ken proposed that we should offer her our assistance. Doug wondered whether the fate of this building was really our mandate. Ken replied that the committee needs a project. "John's got the energy plan under control. What's next?" Katherine offered to reach out to the owner, Michelle Kenny. Nick suggested that she should explain what kinds of things we could help with. Ken proposed consulting on the building shell and on HVAC. Katherine thought that Michelle may already have a handle on those issues. Ralph said that our involvement, if any, should be advisory.

**Wallingford Crushed Stone.** Ken proposed that we invite the plant manager to come to one of our meetings to explain how solar fits into the company's operations. "It must have had an impact or they wouldn't have chosen to enlarge the array."

**Wallingford Solar LLC.** Ken asked Nick to contact the Hands to see how the project was coming along.

**Town Meeting.** Ken proposed that we talk about what the committee can do at town meeting to advance our agenda. "The Town should be leading by example. What about a measure to ban single use plastic containers in Town Hall and perhaps the School? It might raise people's awareness of the waste stream." John said that we have a history of promoting our activities in the lobby outside the school's gym. Katherine suggested we use some of our money to buy 200 or so reusable bags and hand them out.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30. "This was a very informative, well organized meeting," Ralph commented. "Now where's my dinner?"

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30.

— Submitted by John Armstrong