

WALLINGFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the February 2, 2016 Meeting

Ken Welch called the meeting to order at 6:40. Present: John Armstrong, Doug Blodgett, Ralph Nimtz, Milton Moore and Ken Welch.

Minutes. The committee approved the minutes of the December and January meetings.

Energy Plan. Ralph mentioned that Jay had shared one of the energy plan drafts with the Planning Commission. The commission was surprised to learn that we intended to submit such a plan and were grateful to learn about it. It turns out that the Selectboard was also unaware of our plans. "I think Jay did the right thing," John concluded.

John went on to say that the plan needed a preamble to explain its purpose. He also volunteered to write a section on conservation. A member remarked that Anna Tally had written a plan about energy efficiency when she was a member of the committee. John said he would look at that suggested the section begin with conservation. "This is really fundamental. Yes, it's important to seal your house but first you should simply turn down the thermostat. Conservation costs nothing."

John suggested that he would gather all the drafts and then interview the authors to clarify their intentions and create a uniform style and format.

Ken asked when the plan could be ready. "June? April? Before?"

We discussed wind energy. Doug advocated a position that would oppose large "industrial" wind projects. John explained that he had a different view. "I think we should express both of these points of view," John said. "There's no reason we have to be unanimous."

"But big wind projects get rejected," Doug pointed out. "None of the big projects west of Rutland got approved. And people near the Sheffield site are upset. You should go to Sheffield, John." John agreed. Ralph added that Jay also supported carefully designed large scale wind development. Ken stated that at the very least there should be no large scale development in the village. "And there really are no good sites for wind on the Greens." John asked about the Taconics. "They're not in the town, John. We have no standing."

"Do you mean that we can take no position on the ridge line we face because it's across a town border," John asked.

Doug suggested that we echo the position taken by the Regional Plan. Ken agreed. "Let's move on."

WES. Ralph reported that a mechanical contractor had still not completed its portion of the project. "They've done a good job but are simply having difficulty finishing. We're holding money back until they do."

Ken reported on a conversation with Brenda Spafford a Senior Account Manager at Green Mountain Power. "She says there's no difference in the school's peak utilization. I'm going to try to get a Rainforest Monitor so we can look at utilization on a 15 second basis and figure out what triggers the peaks. I'm sure Brenda will help us."

Ken will try to get the school's electric bills to assess usage and the effect of the solar panels.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 8 at 6:30.

Submitted by John Armstrong.