

# WALLINGFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

## Minutes of the March 6, 2018 Meeting

Ken Welch called the meeting to order at 7:05. Present: John Armstrong, Ralph Nimtz, Ken Welch and Jay White. Jay moved the adoption of the February minutes with one connection.

**Town Hall.** Ken reported that Sandi Switzer has asked for help with an evaluation of the energy status of Town Hall. The town has money — or will be getting money — from the rental of the tower to AT&T. Ken did a survey with his thermal camera and discovered that there are air leaks around every window. “What if we simply got together and caulked these?”

Ralph pointed out that there is a lot of under used space in the building’s basement. “This doesn’t have to be just energy. There is an existing plan to extend the stairway to the auditorium down to the basement and create a space that could be used, for example, for youth programs” Ralph walked this idea back on learning that the tower rental funds would total about \$70,000.

There was a discussion on whether there might be historic preservation restrictions on renovating the building’s windows to fill the weight cavities. “There are newer ways to counterbalance the weight of the windows that look exactly the same but don’t involve weights and chains,” Jay explained. “If we could fill the cavities it would make a huge difference.”

Ken stated that that there is no record of an energy audit for Town Hall. Ralph recalled that the auditorium ceiling had been air sealed and insulated. Ken agreed that his thermal camera could find no cold spots in the auditorium ceiling. Ken asked whether we should explore heating (and cooling) the building with air-sourced heat pumps. “Do you think this would cause an historic preservation issue?”

**Energy Plan.** John explained some interesting aspects of RRPC’s model plan for Wallingford. “They’ve resolved some issues about applying aesthetic criteria when defining land as prohibited. They contend that PUC should apply Act 250 criteria when reviewing development of parts of town we designate as viewsheds of other aesthetic assets. They also no longer call for hiring a Certified Aesthetic Consultant and instead propose that a landscape professional be selected by the town but paid by the developer.

John reiterated his plan to submit an outline to the committee for review at the April meeting with a draft of the full text by Jane. Ken advocated making carbon reduction the most important goal. “I agree, Ken,” John responded, “but there are strong economic reasons

to support an energy transformation. These reasons have nothing to do with climate change. There's no point in making the plan more contentious than it has to be."

Ken also advocated that we support every form of renewable energy. "Even small wind, Ken?" Jay asked. "It's true," Ken responded, "a lot of people don't like little windmills on tall towers. There are alternatives. I understand that there's a Walmart in Massachusetts with small horizontal turbines. There are also innovative ways to do hydro."

Ralph asked when we plan to do the legwork.

**WES.** Ralph asked whether we had identified a teacher who would be interested in what the monitor is showing. Ken asked to see the monitor and John brought it up on his iPad. The situation was similar to what we learned when the monitor was first installed. The building draws 5 –10 kW overnight and during the weekend. Daytime use is over 25kW with higher peaks.

Ralph reminded us that the project dramatically improved insulation and made substantial improvements in ventilation. Jay reported that the HVAC control system has recently been replaced.

Conclusion. Ken: "So our next step is to get some maps and assign teams. Let's adjourn."

The meeting was adjourned at 7: 50. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 3 at 6:30.

— Submitted by John Armstrong