

WALLINGFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the March 8, 2016 Meeting

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

Minutes. The committee approved the minutes of the February meeting.

Rutland Town's Municipal Oversight Resolution. Ken reported that the Select Board has asked the committee's advice on whether Wallingford should endorse a resolution that Rutland Town has proposed to "ensure that Vermont municipalities have a more meaningful role in the CPG process and to require compliance with appropriately-developed municipal siting standards." After a full discussion it was the unanimous opinion of the members present that the Select Board should decline to endorse this proposal.

We came to this conclusion for a number of reasons. Many of the concerns that led Rutland Town to draft its proposal are now addressed by Act 56 of the 2015 session. These include setbacks, screening and the applicability of municipal zoning regulations for commercial projects. We also agreed that adding another layer of regulatory control would, in practice, only inhibit the adoption of renewable energy development and have a detrimental effect on Vermont's renewable energy industry. We also agreed that the regulation of energy facilities should be a regional rather than municipal responsibility and that the Town already has representation on the Rutland [County] Regional Planning Commission. Municipalities are also parties to any ruling before the Public Service on matters affecting a municipality. John agreed to draft a statement from the Committee to the Select Board.

WES. We are still trying to understand why the school continues to be charged peak usage fees on its electric bill. Jay reported that electrical usage in the school kitchen has indeed gone down since completion of the renovations. There is, however, a peak when the heat comes on. Jay finds this difficult to explain considering the horsepower of the motors in the oil burners and ventilation systems. Ken and Jay will follow up on this.

Energy Plan. John reported that he does not have an electronic copy of the draft on transportation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 5 at 6:30.

Submitted by John Armstrong.