

WALLINGFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the April 5, 2016 Meeting

Ken Welch called the meeting to order at 6:35. Present: John Armstrong, Doug Blodgett, Ralph Nimtz, Ken Welch and Jay White.

March Minutes. Jay moved (and Ralph seconded) approval of the March minutes. There were no objections.

Rutland Town Proposal. Jay reported that he can find no mention of this proposal in the minutes of recent selectboard meetings. John moved and Jay seconded that we circulate the statement drafted after the March meeting. There were no objections. Ken said, "That was easy."

Transportation. John recalled that his initial reaction to a transportation section in the town plan was skeptical "What can of Vermont town do about transportation? People drive their cars and trucks and that's just about it." He recalled that in previous meetings we discussed such things as promoting Wallingford retail so that every purchase doesn't require a trip to Rutland. "But if we are thinking about 2050, maybe we should be more ambitious.

"For example, rotaries. Red lights are the reason city mileage is lower than highway mileage. Rotaries don't require stopping particularly when traffic is light. They reduce emissions. And data shows that they're safer. You replace it head on and T-bone accidents with low speed sideswipes."

John also suggested that we rethink mass transit. "The transit model – a fairly large vehicle follows a schedule on a fixed route – doesn't work very well in Vermont aside from Burlington. There's no mass. Could we figure a way to modify the Uber model — people request rides and software matches requests with resources — in a largely rural environment?

Ken proposed that we make transportation our new big topic and develop a number of proposals for the town to consider. Electric school buses: they make one trip in the morning and one in the afternoon and don't go very far. Ralph mentioned bicycles. "Creek Road is a wonderful bike route though not so good on the gravel section. It's beautiful, relatively level and goes straight yo the center of Rutland." The committee agreed to make the following 12 months the year of transportation.

WES. "I was wrong last month." Jay explained. "There are, in fact, six 5hp motors in the school's HVAC system. Starting those motors could very well be the source of the peak electrical charges."

Jay also reported that the architects, project manager and contractors were still working to bring the school's HVAC system under control.

Jay also offered to make up a set of plans for the school so that students could locate every light switch and note what was plugged into every outlet. Ken volunteered to assist with this effort.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 3 at 6:30.

Submitted by John Armstrong.