

WALLINGFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the September 6, 2016 Meeting

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

June Minutes. There were no minutes of the June meeting to review.

Energy Plan. Ken reported that the Wallingford Planning Commission has requested our help with the energy section of the revised Town Plan. He also reported that the Commission's Chair, Erika Berner, will share a format with us. [Sandi Switzer has asked Erika to send this format to John.]

Transportation Section. Ken also reported that Ed Bove, Executive Director of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, can be helpful on transportation issues. Bove recommended we contact:

- Deb Sachs, 238.9807, deb@netzerovt.org, She is active with the Way To Go competition (waytogovt.org)
- Jason Van Driesche, Deputy Director of Local Motion, a walking and biking advocacy group (localmotion.org); 652-2453 x109 or jason@localmotion.org
- Fran Putnam, member of the [Weybridge Energy Committee](#) and frequent reporter on energy issues for the Addison County Independent. 388-1644
- Johanna Miller, Energy Program Director, Vermont Natural Resources Council (vnrc.org); 223.2328 x112; jmiller@vnrc.org

Solar Section. Jay reported that he had revised his solar energy draft to reflect the changes in Act 260. He also reported that there is a moratorium on large solar projects until the legislature increases the limit on renewables.

Wind Section. The committee is divided on how to plan wind energy. One group, which includes Doug and Milt, is opposed to "industrial" wind and believes that we should only promote "personal" wind projects. Another group, including Jay and John, thinks that "eggbeater" turbines, particularly those mounted on guy-wire stabilized towers, are much more of an intrusion on our environment than "graceful" large, slow turning turbines. "But the real problem with small scale wind," John added, "is that it doesn't solve the problem. We'll never get to 75%, let alone 90% of electricity from renewable resources that way. Yes, you take yourself off the grid — and that's laudable — but is it enough? And didn't we decide last spring that large scale wind was irrelevant as far as the Town Plan for Wallingford is concerned? In mountainous regions, large scale wind projects only work at or near

ridgelines. The ridgeline to our east is on Federal land. The one to our west is in Tinmouth. And according to [wind resource maps](#), neither ridgeline is a particularly good candidate for large-scale wind. Rochester made this argument, and their plan was, I believe, approved." John volunteered to draft a section on wind.

Jay pointed out that a revised Town Plan is not due until 2018. "That's fine," Ken responded, "but let's get this thing done! By December."

"December 31," Doug suggested.

WES Energy Dashboard. Ken proposed a field trip to see the system in the school in Mt. Holly. "I'm interested in the details: the inputs and the outputs." Milt reported that the person in charge of the system was very welcoming.

Jay reported that the HVAC control system in the school appears to be finally working but that we will not really know that until there is a need to heat the building. "We probably haven't achieved a significant reduction in peak electrical use so far because control issues last year meant that five 5HP electric motors were running at full power except at night or when the system was shut down. Hopefully the motor control problem has been solved and we'll soon find out what we've accomplished." Jay agreed to get the electrical bills from RSSU.

Membership. A number of people were discussed. Ralph and Ken will follow up with them. We discussed the need to recruit women and also younger people. "But not too young," Ken added. "High schoolers have better things to do on Tuesday nights."

Grants. Ken reported on some available grants.

- Scholarships for attendance at EV's [Better Buildings by Design](#) conference in February and the [VECAN conference](#) in December.
- And a [\\$2,500 grant](#) from EV for community outreach events for Button Up Day (November 12). Ken pointed out that this sum would allow us to raffle 10 or 15 energy audits. John referred to an [article in the New York Times](#) about an English village that has been highly successful in getting its residents interested in energy issues. "One of the things they do is make their events fun. We could do a better job of that." Ralph mentioned that the Victorian Inn now has a pub room that we might be able to rent. [Soo at the Inn says room only holds 25 people.] One of the suggestions in the EV RFP is Home Energy Parties at houses that have made significant energy upgrades. There was an informal consensus that this event should be before the end of the year but not in the Holiday season.

The meeting was adjourned at 8PM. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 4 at 6:30.

— Submitted by John Armstrong.