

9/11/18

## Wallingford Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Present: John Armstrong, Doug Blodgett, Ken Welch, Ralph Nimtz, Jay White, Nick Benjamin, Katherine MacLauchlan

Meeting called to order at 18:30.

D.Blodgett moved to approve the minutes from the July meeting- J. White seconded. No discussion, passed unanimously.

New business-

D.Blodgett- Recapped a recent visit to the Ludlow Solar project. It's a very large installation directly connected to VELCO. The only one of its size/ kind. Produces more power than the town of Ludlow can consume. Power is believed to go to CT, though CT might not take out of state power. J. White asked why that was a concern of ours.

J. Armstrong- Recapped a recent visit to Lowell Mountain. He's impressed with the look and quietness of the windmills. Notes the windmills are noticeably quieter than route 7, the airport, or other industrial uses.

K. Welch- Recently contacted by Paul Markowitz of Efficiency Vermont in regards to hosting Button Up workshops in Wallingford. Discussion on the merits of the program, details and work assignments. K. Welch tasked by the committee to follow up with Paul. Concerns within the committee that the effort required to host a successful event has not been seen with previous attempts. As exemplified by the recent community planning events, Wallingford residents can be mobilized, but it takes consistent effort.

K. Welch- Asked for follow up information regarding electric school bus options. Discussion around the merits of leasing versus purchase. J. Armstrong knows of a Canadian company offering leases. Leases (with grants) end up costing around the same as a traditional diesel bus over the life of the bus with all expenses considered.

K. Welch- Asked for follow up on the status of the electric car charging station in Wallingford. We have a business looking to host, but no information yet on the details of the VW settlement and funding. Discussion around the possibility of the same VW settlement money helping subsidize an electric school bus. Not enough known at this point.

Yielded the floor to Erika Berner. She presented page 33 of the town plan for our review at a later date. Contains two action items for the town as it relates to energy.

K. Welch- Spoke with Thomas Hand concerning the proposed solar project. Thomas was concerned there might be a change in zoning that complicates the project. No need for concern at this time. Project presentation is scheduled for 9/18 at the Select board meeting. Energy Committee members encouraged to attend in support of the project.

J. Armstrong- Presented an update on the Wallingford Energy Plan. Noted that towns with approved enhanced energy plans have standing with the Department of Public Service. He asked the

committee to support sharing an outline of the plan with E. Berner of the Planning Commission for her input and to ensure there are no conflicts with the Town Plan. Discussion about the relationship between the Enhanced Energy Plan and the Town Plan. EEP presented as an addendum to the town plan, per K. Welch's conversation with the Regional Planning Commission. Committee is in favor with sharing the outline with E. Berner for review.

J. Armstrong- Received summary edits from K. Welch. Discussion centered on the level of detail required of the plan. J. Armstrong assures the committee that the document will contain all the information required by the Department of Public Service without being too verbose. J. Armstrong is expecting feedback from the DPS on the draft submitted earlier this summer. Expected this week.

J. Armstrong- asked the committee to submit the ranking of the action items gathered from other plans to narrow the focus of what should be in ours. Rankings due to J. Armstrong by or before 9/20/2018. Discussion around the merits of how many action items to include in the final plan and who will execute the action items. N. Benjamin concerned with having too many things will small impact. K. MacLauchlan proposed having fewer items and repeating them. J. Armstrong reminded the committee that the plan must be detailed through 2024.

General discussion of the merits of the current electric car offerings and their limitations in our geography sparked by one of the proposed action items. Also discussed the consequences of not having the plan approved. There is no financial penalty, but the town loses standing with the Public Utility. Discussed the pros and cons to providing detail in the EEP. While we can't predict what the energy outlook and options will be in 2050, we can make decisions that ultimately create regulations and procedures to guide the town to a sustainable energy future. Once we meet the quotas set by the state for energy production, we are not obligated to approve plans above and beyond those quotas. K. MacLauchlan offered in conclusion that the plan language doesn't mean we're going to say no once quotas are met, but rather that we don't have to say yes to additional projects.

J. Armstrong- expects to complete the first draft by 9/30, complete revisions in October for a final draft to be submitted for ratification by 12/31/18.

K. Welch- thank you to J. Armstrong for the efforts in writing the EEP!

K. Welch- Question to the committee about any projected uses for our remaining budget. None at this time. Meeting dates set at 10/2 at 6:30 and 11/13 @6:30 to accommodate election day.

Meeting adjourned at 19:40.

Respectfully submitted,

K. MacLauchlan