

WALLINGFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the October 3, 2017 Meeting

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

Jay moved that the September minutes be approved as written. Milton seconded the motion. There was no objection. John asked about the May minutes. Ken asked to review them and copies were circulated. Later in the meeting, Jay moved that these, too, be approved. Once again there was no dissent.

WES Monitoring. John: "As of yesterday, the kiosk in the school is finally working."

John reported that the monitor shows that the building consumes significant amounts of electricity 24/7: about 350 – 400 kWh/day during the week and about 100 kWh/day on weekends. (Readers can access the monitor [here](#). The username is "Energycommittee" and the password is "Powerwise1")

Jay: "The control system is supposed to ramp down the ventilation when the CO₂ concentration drops after school hours and not ramp it up again late the next morning when people in the building make enough CO₂ trigger the system. It's been to track down why this doesn't seem to be happening. We should, however, keep in mind that there are reasons the building uses energy when it's not occupied. Hot water, for instance, requires firing one of the boilers from time to time."

John explained that he intends to create usernames and passwords for students and for people in the community. Doug asked whether anyone could log on. "Why not?" John answered. "It doesn't control anything. It simply reports."

Community Energy Meeting. John: "Doug, you asked me last spring what the title of the meeting was and you were right: my original title was pretty lame. What about 'Giving Wallingford a Say in Energy Development'? That's what the issue is. Getting the consensus we need in order to submit an energy plan that meets all the state and regional guidelines is the only way the town is going to have standing before the Public Utilities Commission." [The Public Utilities Commission was formerly known as the Public Service Board or PSB.]

Doug: "If we don't do it, it will be done to us. This isn't just going to go away."

Ken suggested that the presentation include an inventory of existing renewable energy facilities in town. John: "These data exist. [I've seen a map on the web.](#)" [Enter "Wallingford VT" in the search box on the page the link brings up.]

Ken reported that the committee still has three coupons for energy audits from Neighborworks. "Should we offer them as door prizes?"

Doug: "Why not?"

Ken: "But there are also a couple of foundation-run housing facilities in town that I suspect could benefit from an audit."

Jay: "That would be a good use."

Doug: "Should the final coupon be a prize at the meeting?" The committee agreed.

Jay: "I want to report a success story. One of the audits we gave away last fall went to a homeowner across from the school and the result was a significant investment in weatherization and a new heating system."

John: "These things can be expensive, but if an audit finds big problems and you fix them you get a positive cash flow right away. And the difference in comfort is amazing."

Ken: "In all seasons."

John: "Yes, in all seasons. But let's go back to the presentation. I think we should select a weekday evening and allow residents to bring their kids if they wish."

There was general agreement — but no date was set.

Electric School Buses. Ken reported that the process of getting a proposal together "looks like a minefield. I think we should simply offer to provide the district school board with some information."

Doug: "I agree. There's nothing to lose."

Ken: "Doug, why don't you approach Tammy?"

Doug: "Fine. Do you have any information?"

John pointed out a section in the September minutes.

Doug: "That's all I need."

VECAN Presentation. John: "With the monitor showing continuing high electrical use in the school, what is our message?"

Ken: "That if you're doing a public building energy upgrade you need to measure your results. Particularly if you can get a grant from EV to pay for the monitor."

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00. The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 7 at 6:30.

— Submitted by John Armstrong