

# WALLINGFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

## Minutes of the November 13, 2018 Meeting

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

Jay moved and John seconded that the October minutes be accepted as written. There was no objection.

**Energy Plan:** John presented his mostly finished “enhanced” energy plan designed to meet DPS’s requirements to qualify for a Certificate of Energy Compliance. This certificate will give the town a greater say in rulings by the Public Utilities Commission about the siting of energy facilities such as solar farms. The plan was well received and the committee authorized John to submit it to RRPC for initial review to make sure it addresses all the issues DPS requires to award the certificate.

Assuming that review goes well (or that it is possible to revise the document to fix any shortcomings) the committee will begin a process with the Planning Commission to publicize the plan, hold at least one public hearing and refer the matter to the Selectboard for approval and official application to RRPC which, because its regional plan was approved by DPS, has the authority to review municipal plans. Jay volunteered to work with the chair of the Planning Commission and suggest that he and John make a presentation at the next Planning Commission meeting.

Ken asked John to draft a memo to the Selectboard about these developments and remind them of the purpose of the plan. This memo will include the two page summary section of the plan. John suggested that we investigate printing the plan once it has been approved by RRPC. [A quick on-line quote from Staples put 200 copies at about \$1,700. 100 copies cost more for some reason.]

The committee discussed the process going forward. Doug called the plan ambitious. John agreed, explaining that it is hard to see how it could be fulfilled strictly by volunteer efforts. “Somebody needs to come to work every day with a to-do list for changing how we buy and

use energy," John explained. Ken asked John to prepare an invoice for any out of pocket expenses he incurred.

**Button Up:** "I just want to confirm that nobody wants to do it," Ken explained. No one did.

**VECAN Conference:** Ken urged members to attend this annual conference, this year on Saturday, December 1 in Fairlee. He said he had ways to cover the fee. "Perhaps we should raise the issue of how the state could support paid energy coordinators for towns."

**Membership:** "Does anyone have ideas on finding a new member to replace Milt?" Ken asked. "Qualifications: hair but no grey hair." There was a discussion about how to replace Milt's role as treasurer. John pointed out that if all the treasurer does is to pay bills and keep track of how much money the committee has in its town accounts, that Sandi already does this.

**Charging Stations:** Ken reported on a conversation he had with a GMP employee who seemed to suggest that the VW money was quickly disappearing. John explained that the application document says that applications are accepted in rounds. Round 1 has just closed and Round 2 will not be until April. He added that this is not an easy application. He agreed to distribute the application document. Jay pointed out that Rob Stubbins does charging station work and that he could give us guidance about practicality and pricing. Doug argued that we should recruit an experienced grant writer.

Annual Report: Jay presented a draft report on the committee's work for 2018. It was approved and Jay will forward it to Sandi.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32. The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 4 at 6:30.

— Submitted by John Armstrong