

Wallingford Energy Committee Minutes*

***These are unofficial Minutes subject to the approval at the next regular meeting.**

March 4, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Ken Welch at 6:35. Present: John Armstrong, Ralph Nimtz, Ken Welch and Jay White. Milt Moore joined the meeting in progress.

Jay moved that the minutes be approved with a few changes.

Wallingford Energy Fair. Almost all of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of a Wallingford Energy Fair possibly to be held in conjunction with Green Up Day on Saturday, May 3.

Publicity. Jay reported that the Rotary has a way of displaying banners in front of their building and that these banners cost about \$150 to make. Other ways to publicize an event include the Town web site, Front Porch Forum, and supplying the Rutland *Herald* with story ideas.

Site. While an event could be held behind the Library, the committee agreed that the school yard was the natural place for a town event. This would also make it easy to have activities for children in the playground. Someone should, of course, act as liaison with the school. We should also check with the Clerk's office to see whether there is a need for permits of any kind.

Coordination with Green Up Day. Ralph, who is member of the Conservation Commission, was concerned that the event might compete for attention with the annual drive to collect trash. Since this collection has to be completed by the time the Transfer Station closes at noon, the Fair should be held in the afternoon. We briefly discussed the need for offering food.

Participants. The Fair would essentially be an opportunity for residents to learn about organizations and businesses that offer energy related services. This could include GMP, EV, and Neighborworks; certified energy efficiency contractors; fuel dealers; solar, heat pump and wind installers; organizations such as BROCC that provide assistance for low income home owners; and businesses that sell energy related equipment such as stoves and pellet burners.

Having explored all these aspects of holding an event, there was a consensus that two months of lead time is inadequate and that we should postpone the fair in the early fall. "That's when people start to think about energy," Ken commented. "In May they're just happy that they made it through the winter."

WES. As we were meeting, officials upstairs were counting Meeting Day votes for, among other things, the School Renovation Bond. [The bond passed with a little more than 60% of the vote (287 to 190). Unfortunately, bond attorneys were of the opinion that the measure was not sufficiently warned to be valid. A special election has been called for late April to reaffirm the vote.]

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 1 at 6:30.

Submitted by John Armstrong.