

WALLINGFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

Draft Minutes of the December 2, 2014 Meeting

Subject to Approval and Revision

The meeting was called to order by Ken Welch at 6:40. Present: John Armstrong, Doug Blodgett, Ralph Nimtz, Ken Welch and Jay White.

Discussion of the November minutes was tabled as there was a failure in distribution.

New Members. Both Ken and Doug have potential members in mind and they will invite them. John agreed to post an open invitation on Front Porch Forum.

Town **Energy Plan.** Jay is still researching whether solar panels affect the assessed value of a home. Ken promised to find and update his essay on small hydro power.

John pointed out that [VECAN publications](#) envision a much more comprehensive report than the committee has been discussing. Ken explained that the committee had discussed addressing issues such as energy supply and demand and concluded that these be left to the regional energy plan.

WES. Ralph gave a progress report on the school bond project. "The roof is essentially finished and heat eat recovery ventilators have been installed on the roof. The gym and kitchen vents will be attached soon but attaching them to classrooms will have to wait until summer." Jay explained that the installation of similar ventilators in the Danby school cut heating costs in half. "For one thing, you're not just exhausting heated air. The new vents are also zoned on a room by room basis and are controlled by CO₂ monitors. It takes hours for a classroom full of children to make enough CO₂ to require ventilation — and empty rooms don't need venting at all."

Ken asked about insulation. Jay reported that this was essentially finished. "We were surprised to find that most of the existing insulation was in good shape and could be reused. Usually you just have to throw it out. So all we had to do was add additional insulation to get the required R-value and this meant we saved \$11,000."

Ken reported that an application for a GMP grant for energy monitoring had been submitted. [Unfortunately, GMP rejected our application because we have a bond to cover costs. "I guess we weren't needy enough."] Ken is also looking into a grant for a biomass project at the school.

John agreed to visit the Mt. Holly school to observe their energy monitoring system. Jay commented that it was his understanding that the system monitors not just energy use but also production from the school's photovoltaic array and small wind turbine.

Street Lighting. Ralph reported that some town residents are unsatisfied with the "BIC lighter" LED street lights and have the impression that this has increased the cost of street lighting. Jay promised to check with the Prudential Committee to verify that the new lights save significant amounts of money. "One of the advantages of LED streetlights," Jay explained, "is that they're direc-

tional. When you look down a street lit by conventional “cobra head” streetlights, it looks bright but all that light spilling out the side doesn’t really make the sidewalk brighter. With the new LEDs, the lack of spill actually means that you see better.”

Annual Report. Ralph suggested that the LED project be a part of the annual report for the Energy Committee. Other 2014 accomplishments include the committee’s role in the passage of the school bond, our blower door test at the school, the photovoltaic presentation in November and ongoing work on the energy plan.

Community Solar. Doug will follow up on a potential site in East Wallingford where the Sun-common no upfront cost model might fit well. We also discussed the former quarry across from True Temper. “Rutland is already solarized,” Ken commented. “It’s time to look for sites elsewhere in the county.”

Committee Budget. Ken asked whether we should ask for additional funds from the Town. There was a consensus that the current budget of \$500 was sufficient. “We need a treasurer,” Ken declared. Jay nominated Milt Moore and John seconded the motion. There was no objection to the motion — though Doug did comment, “Poor Milt.”

Town Energy Use. Ralph brought up the topic of energy use in all the town buildings. “The town office has all the data,” he explained. “The pay the bills. Where we could help would be to create a system for consolidating this information.” Ken suggested that the committee hire a college student, perhaps one studying accounting, to create a spreadsheet and to come in perhaps once a month to enter new billing data. The purpose would be to show the voters where we’re saving money. “I think it would be interesting to compare the firehouse to the Wallingford Rescue building,” Ken suggested. “We know the square footage of the two buildings. The Town and the Fire District know the heating costs. It’s easy to convert fuel use into BTUs and from there be able to calculate BTUs per square foot.”

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50. The next meeting to be on Tuesday, January 6 at 6:30.

Submitted by John Armstrong.