

# WALLINGFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

## Draft Minutes of the October 7, 2014 Meeting

### *Subject to Approval and Revision*

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

Jay moved and Milt seconded that the revised minutes of the September meeting be approved. There was no dissent.

**WES.** Jay and Ralph reviewed progress on the renovations at the school. The roof is essentially finished. Demolition is underway on old mechanical equipment such as the multipurpose room air handler. The kitchen work will be done over the Christmas recess and should immediately result in significant electrical savings. The photovoltaic installation will be limited to 9.5 kW to stay eligible for a grant for projects smaller than 11 kW. This will leave room on the roof for additional panels should the Town wish to add them in the future. Ralph reported that "we are finding ways to save money and are hoping to find a way to put the pellet furnace back into the project. We expect the work to be complete next August."

Ken congratulated the committee. "I'm involved in many energy retrofit projects and I think what we've done here in Wallingford should serve as a model for the way these jobs should be done. We looked at all of the shortcomings of the building at once rather than have a series of piecemeal projects to address individual problems."

**October 15 Solar Community Meeting.** We discussed the importance of keeping the information basic and understandable and of finding a balance between the Suncommon turnkey approach and the usual way to finance residential or community solar projects with landowner investments. We discussed several promising sites for medium sized community projects on essentially unused tracts both in Wallingford and in East Wallingford. Some of these are within flood zones though Ralph pointed out that not all flood zones are alike. "There are floods such as what happened in Cuttingsville during Irene where the river stripped the land bare and other floods where water simply rises and then recedes. You could probably put solar projects on tracts not vulnerable to violent flooding." Ken emphasized the importance of locating larger projects within several hundred feet of three phase power.

After much discussion John moved and everyone agreed that the committee supply cider and doughnuts for the meeting.

**The Town Energy Plan.** We agreed to resume work on this plan and to devote the next three or four committee meetings to discussions of specific topics. Solar and hydro are on the agenda for November.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45. The next meeting to be on Tuesday, November 4 at 6:30.

Submitted by John Armstrong.