

WALLINGFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the April 2, 2019 Meeting

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

March Minutes. Jay moved that they be accepted without revision. Katherine seconded the motion and there was no objection. Doug congratulated Katherine on her new role.

Energy Questionnaire. Ken suggested we go through the questions on the Vermont Climate Energy Action Community's [Municipal Energy Survey](#). "There's a lot of good action items in it."

"For example, in Section 14 it suggests that we conduct an energy audit or assessment on the town's waste water and water treatment facilities. I used to work in that field and, believe me, water treatment plants are energy hogs. EV has programs for these facilities and we could provide some helpful advice." Jay agreed to open this discussion at the next fire district meeting. Ken added that most of Wallingford's municipal buildings have not been audited. "I'll check to see whether EV could help us with this."

Ken pointed out that Section 15 asks about heating system efficiency and wondered what the situation was at the school. Jay reminded him this was now a district issue.

Section 18 asks about "complete street" policies and reducing sprawl. John felt that these concerns should be referred to the Planning Commission.

John agreed that these suggestions are interesting and many of them belong in the final section of the Energy Plan. "But instead of going through them all at this meeting, why doesn't everyone go through the document on their own and let me know which items look especially useful for the plan. (There is a link to the document in the third paragraph of these minutes.)"

Single use plastic bags. There was a discussion of whether the prospect of a statewide ban on plastic bags means that municipal ordinances or enforcement is really needed. Jay recalled Katherine's suggestion of distributing reusable shopping bags with a Wallingford

theme. "We need to do something proactive even if there is a statewide ban." Ken suggested a booth at Wallingford Day (Saturday, July 20). Jay proposed that we find a sponsor to bear the cost of the bags and Katherine showed examples of convenient reusable bags. Doug commented that they're certainly better than the ones you find at the end of the supermarket checkout. "I doubt we'd be in a position to hire an ad agency, however."

Ken summed up. "It looks like this will soon be state policy, and while that means that there's not really anything we have to do as a town, we should still be ready to be positive about this issue."

Energy Plan. John suggested doing an event in the next month or two.

Ken asked whether there was any other new business. Not hearing any suggestions, he concluded: "I guess we've done this meeting in record time." The meeting was adjourned at 7:40. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30.

— Submitted by John Armstrong