

Wallingford Energy Committee Minutes*

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

June 3, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Ken Welch at 6:40. Present: John Armstrong, Milton Moore, Ken Welch and Jay White.

May Minutes. Unfortunately no minutes were prepared for the meeting on May 6. According to Milt's notes and the recollections of other members present at that meeting, Doug Blodgett, Milton Moore, Ralph Nimtz and Jay White attended. School Board Chairman Ken Freddette also attended as an observer. "The meeting was mostly devoted to the school renovation project," Jay recalled. It was adjourned at 7:05.

WES. Jay brought the committee up to date with the renovation project at the school. "As you remember," Jay explained, "the project was budgeted at \$1.2 million but the bond issue was for only \$900,000 because we had been assured that the State would contribute about \$300,000. What we've been doing is to go over the project to find \$300,000 in savings. For example, lighting is off the table as is the elevator and most of the office renovations. We were, however, able to find a more economical way to improve security with two sets of remotely controlled doors in the main entrance area and a direct line of sight to control these doors. A suspicious intruder would be trapped between the two sets of doors. Fortunately, almost all of the energy efficiency projects have been retained and this, if anything, will make the net cost of the bond more affordable. As for lighting, LED performance is expected to go from the current level of 80 lumens per watt to 300. When that happens it will be a no brainer to replace the existing florescent lighting."

Other changes include putting the pellet boiler in the same room with the existing oil burning boilers (which will be retained for backup). The pellets themselves would be stored in what is now a maintenance room with a feed system going to the west side of the school. This eliminates the need for a new building for the new boiler.

"We've gone through the preapproval process for the contractors," Jay reported. "I'm pleased with the process. I think they're all well qualified."

We discussed the schedule. The need to revoke the bond caused over six weeks of delay and this means that Jay estimates that the earliest work could begin would be late July or early August. "I can't speak for the contractors, but I think this means that this will be a two year project. There's no provision for overtime in these contracts so we can't speed things up that way. The plan is to do the roof, the photovoltaics, the new electronic HVAC controls and the pellet boiler before heating season. This will give us a lot of the efficiency improvements right away. The new ducting in the classrooms will probably have to wait for next summer."

Ken reiterated the need for an energy audit so there'd be a baseline to qualify as a building performance project. Various committee members offered to volunteer to help this project. "I think we're going to need blowers in three doorways," Ken commented.

Heat Pump Water Heaters. Ken reported that [Efficiency Vermont is offering](#) a \$500 rebate on the installation of heat pump domestic water heaters bringing the total cost to about \$1,100 for a projected lifetime savings of over \$3,000. Jay was dubious. "If I lived in Florida I'd run out and buy one of these things in a moment. It not only heats water but it provides some dehumidification and cooling. But for half of the year in Vermont you first have to burn fuel to warm the air so that the heat pump can concentrate it to make hot water. I fail to see why that's more efficient."

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 1 at 6:30.

Submitted by John Armstrong