

WALLINGFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the March 10, 2020 Meeting

Because of the pandemic, the committee will not meet in April. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5 at 6:30 in Town Hall.

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

Ken regretted that Carl Diethelm of the Rutland County Solid Waste District could not join us as planned.

Minutes. Jay moved that the minutes be adopted as written. Ralph seconded the motion. There was no objection. Doug commented that the minutes were “admirably concise.” John explained that he was detained at the hospital for a week in February but is now recovered,

Composting workshop on June 13. “I see this as part of energy conservation,” Ken explained. “Everything is related to energy. In fact, we should be burning all the trash and use the energy to replace other sources of heat.”

Katherine offered the experience of Sweden. “They burn about a half of their household waste and use it to fire district heating systems. These incinerators are so hot that they have negligible emissions. In fact, other countries in the region pay the Swedes to take their trash.”

Carol had doubts. “It reminds me a little of clean coal. There are really two issues with trash: food waste and the rest. But people are confused and this is where the energy committee could play a role,”

Ken offered that these issues really need to be dealt with at the district level “which is why it is a pity that we didn’t get to hear from Carl.”

Town Hall energy improvements. “The big news,” Ken explained, “is that town hall staff are interested in heat pumps. The question is whether there’s sufficient electrical service.”

Reorganizational meeting. John reminded the group that we are obligated to reconsider our leadership at the March meeting. Ralph moved that we reelect the existing leadership. Carol seconded. She then recited a litany of procedural formulas concluding with “so moved.”

Ken asked what just happened. “You and Katherine got reelected,” John explained.

“Carol,” Ken asked, “would it be easier for you to attend if we changed the meeting day? We want to help you.”

“How many hours do you want to put in the farm?” Carol replied.

“Seriously, with solid waste as an issue for the committee,” Ken continued, “you should contribute. You’re the ag person.”

“I’m good with Tuesday,” Carp; replied.

Doug asked why the minutes have quotations. “Because they personalize the report,” John explained. “I think there is evidence that people read these minutes. I suspect that the reason for this is that they tell a story. And remember, I do give people a chance to review the draft minutes before I submit them.”

Doug agreed. “And you changed your version of what I said.”

Energy Plan. John admitted that he has been slow to follow up on the last details. “Fortunately, ski season is over.” John went on to explain that each step in approval requires a thirty day warning. “The Planning Commission, the Selectboard, and final RRPC review: that’s three months right there.”

“Time for dinner, folks.” The meeting was adjourned at 7:25.