

WALLINGFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the January 5, 2021 Meeting

Ken Welch called the virtual meeting to order at 6:30. Participating: John Armstrong, Doug Blodgett, David Castonguay, Katherine MacLauchlan, Ralph Nimtz, Ken Welch and Jay White.

Jay moved that the December minutes be approved and David seconded the motion. There was no objection.

Water System Site Visit. Ken explained that that while the visit was delayed by weather and the holidays, the site is staffed every day which will make it easier to schedule a visit. He suggested the afternoon of January 14. He learned that EV will contribute to necessary efficiency upgrades and explained that a state agency is due to inspect the facility later in the year. "Getting EV assistance puts us ahead of the game."

Energy Code Certification. Jay reported that there was pushback on energy certification at a recent selectboard meeting. One problem is that some selectboard members did not want to approve new projects until meetings can be held in person. The issue was referred to the Planning Commission and Jay will attend the next commission meeting. Ken asked Jay whether he intended to stick with a Certificate of Occupancy initiative and Jay said that he would.

Solar Recognition. There was a discussion of formats. Ken reminded us that the original objective was to thank people for helping achieve a goal. Doug wondered whether we were preaching to the choir. John commented that it is always essential to preach to the choir — so long as that is not all you are doing. Ken thought that John's layout was too didactic and asked Jay his opinion. Jay responded that he liked the draft. Katherine suggested that we should share the document on the town newsletter, an idea that John endorsed. David said that the objective was to get other people on the team. "I'm fine with the format, by the way."

Ken asked John to redistribute the layout and John promised to do that tomorrow "— email willing." (Several days later Ken dropped off a draft with some useful suggestions.)

David volunteered that he is able to print out the document on heavy paper. Ken reminded him to get reimbursed.

Energy Plan. Ken asked John about the progress of the plan. “The problem,” John explained, “is that everything is in flux. The templates that come from the Department of Public Service via the Rutland Regional Planning Commission are based on a state energy plan that went into force five years ago — which means that they reflect the energy situation from five to ten years ago. There’s a new state energy plan coming out next year and it’s likely to be different. A lot has changed.” Ken commented that this was always true.

Katherine wondered why we couldn’t just get our selectboard to approve the plan and then we would be done. John explained that a plan approved by a selectboard without the blessing of the region as the agent of the PSD would have no effect on PUC decisions about what kind of energy projects could be approved. “You need a Certificate of Energy Compliance.”

David recalled his experience working on committees during his academic career. “I worked on a lot of master plans. They usually just wind up in filing cabinets. Lets just finish it up and not worry about it.”

Ken agreed. “This is crazy. Let’s just polish it and move on. Does everyone agree?”

Katherine’s young daughter added “I think so.”

Adjournment. Ken pointed out that it was 7:28. “We’re supposed to talk about the mission of the energy committee. Why don’t we just put that off until next month?”

John agreed. “But let’s move it to the top of the agenda.”

“See you next month,” Ken concluded.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 2 at 6:30 via Zoom or telephone.

— Submitted by John Armstrong

To join Energy Committee meetings by telephone, call 1 (929) 205-6099 (tolls may apply).

The meeting ID is 7330764419 and Password is 907463.

To join via laptop, tablet or other electronic devise, visit

<https://www.wallingfordvt.com/boards-minutes/energy-committee/> or simply [click on the link](#).