

# WALLINGFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

## Minutes of the February 2, 2021 Meeting

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

In Jay's absence, David moved that the December minutes be approved. Ralph seconded the motion. There was no objection.

**Energy Committee Mandate.** John had wanted to present some slides through Zoom's "Share Screen" feature, but found that it is hard to use a new system if you haven't had a way of rehearsing. Without the slides, it was difficult to explain his ideas about a post-pandemic path for the committee. Ken argued that our mission remained what it has been all along: building energy efficiency. "This is the low hanging fruit and in my opinion our core mission is making efficiency affordable." John disagreed.

David argued that a mission statement is not one thing and Katherine suggested that whatever mission statement we develop needs to be as simple as possible. "We don't want to box ourselves into an evolving responsibility." David offered com draft a couple of lines just to get something on paper. Ken suggested that "we put this to bed and move on."

**Water System Site Visit.** Ken explained that he, Jay and Robbie visited the facilities for fresh and waste water processing. "The people who are running these systems are doing a good job. The pumping systems are in good shape and the only possible issue with the fresh water system is the 14 blow offs where water is bled out of the system to keep it moving so it doesn't freeze in the mains. This, by the way, is why there are ice sculptures on the north side of Route 140 just east of the village."

Ken explained that there are issues on the wastewater side of the operation. "The ejection system is based on an old technology that uses compressed air to force out the sewage. Centrifugal pumps are a more efficient alternative, and the operator wants to move to this technology." David asked whether the alternative would pay for itself. Ken suggested we should look into that. "In fact, Robbie is already contacting EV two see what the cost would be." Ken concluded by noting that the water system uses a lot of electricity and there are opportunities to use low cost systems. "We should also explore using an in-line turbine to make electricity." John reminded him that we have been talking for years about using in-line

turbines on the potable water system. “The blow offs demonstrate that there’s plenty off head.”

**Energy Code Enforcement.** In Jay’s absence we tabled this discussion.

**Solar Energy Commendations.** John confessed that he had not been able to make progress.

**Adjournment.** Ken concluded with “Well, that’s what I’ve got. Anyone else?” No one responded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 2 at 6:30 via Zoom or telephone.

— Submitted by John Armstrong

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The meeting ID is 7330764419 and Password is 907463.

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