

WALLINGFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the April 6, 2021 Meeting

The virtual meeting was called to order shortly after 6:30. Participating: John Armstrong, Doug Blodgett, David Castonguay, Katherine MacLauchlan, and Jay White.

Minutes. Initial discussion on some vagaries in the March minutes, specifically on re-organization of the WEC going forward. David is willing to serve as chair and Ken is ok with stepping down from the chair. With this clarification, March minutes were approved. A motion was then made and approved to have David serve as chair with Ken as vice-chair.

Certificate of Occupancy. Jay reported on a conversation he had with Erika Berner of the Planning Commission. He felt we were moving in the right direction with the commission agreeing to propose a “checklist of paperwork” to be recorded at town hall after closing.

Solar Electric Leadership Award. Do we approve it as written? Katherine suggested we take up as a follow-up project an exploration of the motivations of the award winners to install solar. We would add a cover letter to the certificates inquiring as to the motivations of the award winners and ask if they might be willing to serve as an information resource for others. The WEC would like the certificates and cover letters to be mailed out this month. Motion made and approved that John would draft the cover letter and David would copy and mail both items to recipients. Next steps for the WEC would be to facilitate connecting the folks that express interest in further exploring solar.

Energy Plan. John expressed that he was originally motivated by the Act 146 process providing structure for the creation of an energy plan but has come to believe that this process burdens the plan with obsolete restrictions. It is also becoming apparent that the process envisioned by the legislation has not come to pass. Considerable discussion ensued on the intent, purpose and status of the energy plan. Doug confirmed that Ken has submitted the energy plan draft to the WPC. John was concerned that the revision given to the commission is incomplete without references and he will submit them to WPC chair as an amendment.

Future Meetings: In person or Zoom? The group will decide by the end of April (via e-mail) as to the vaccination status of members and potential warmer weather in early May as to the appropriateness of meeting inside or outside for the May 4 meeting.

— Submitted by Doug Blodgett