

WALLINGFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

Approved Minutes for Tuesday, May 28, 2024
5:30 pm at the
Town Hall, 75 School Street, Wallingford, VT

Present: Katherine MacLauchlan, Ken Welch, Jay White, John Armstrong, Ralph Nimitz, Tom Fort

Nominate/Elect Chair and Vice Chair

- One of the members nominated for Chair was not able to be present.
- Tom agreed to be interim Chair for purposes of this meeting.
- Chair and Vice Chair will be elected at the next meeting.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

- Historic Preservation comments on heat pump plan
 - Jay provided update on Historic Preservation review of heat pump plan
 - They generally liked the plan and recommended that we do not disturb the wainscoting and do not add snow awnings until we know that they are needed.
 - Jay updated the plan to reflect the recommendations.
- Update on Community Solar Array (CSA)
 - Tom updated the Committee on communications with potential CSA partners/sponsors representing different CSA business models (3rd Party Ownership, Direct Community Ownership, and Utility Sponsored).
 - GMP utility sponsored CSA's in the past but is not currently building any new arrays.
 - Green Mountain Community Solar has solar arrays in GMP service territory and may have capacity on existing arrays to support Wallingford's needs. In this model Wallingford would own the panels at one of the remote locations (Londonderry, Groton, Chester, Waterford) and would lock in credits for a 30-year term.
 - There is also a market for Wallingford's GMP accounts in upcoming arrays via another solar developer in Vermont.
 - As permitting hurdles increase and reimbursements decline, offtakers (those using the energy) are realizing a reduced share of the total credits that would be applied to their accounts. Final cost/kWhr and break even point will be key considerations as we evaluate the various options.
 - Town GMP electric charges currently exceed \$6k/year. Expected kWhs associated with new Town Hall heating/cooling equipment will be added in order to project town needs going forward and inform CSA requirements.
- Committee ground rules regarding communications to Selectboard
 - The Energy Committee unanimously agreed that all communications will be aligned at the committee level prior to communication with Selectboard.

Minutes of the April 2 and May 7 meetings were unanimously approved.

Public Comments - None

Town Hall Heat Pump Update

- Heat pumps will be the primary heating and cooling system for the 1st and 2nd floors of Town Hall.
- There is a significant difference in 2nd floor heat pump cost estimates provided by various experts. A meeting will be held on site at Town Hall with a potential installer and representative from Efficiency Vermont. Although Engineering Services of Vermont will not be present, their written feedback will be considered during the meeting to understand differences in approach and estimates.

2024 CBES Codes

- Jay updated the Committee that new CBES codes will require heat pump designs to maintain internal conditions with external temperature of -9F.
- Supplemental resistance heat can activate at external temperatures below 5F.
- Primary and secondary/supplemental heat systems will be integrated via smart thermostat to ensure code compliance and the most efficient use of energy.

Town Hall Boiler Replacement Update

- The table of options was discussed and edited for clarity.
- Decision was made to eliminate the option for propane wall-mount units given complexities associated with fuel piping and venting.
- The following points were discussed regarding resistance wall-mount unit option:
 - Cost projections will be re-assessed and adjusted if needed.
 - There was a discussion on whether or not the hallway and stairwell needs wall-mount units or whether primary heat from office spaces would be adequate. 2 Additional resistance wall-mount units will be added to ensure that the projected cost estimate adequately covers either scenario.
- The Selectboard will be updated at their next meeting on the propane boiler bid package as well as the alternative resistance wall-mount option that was developed in parallel.

New business from floor - None

Meeting adjourned at 7pm