

Wallingford Energy Committee
Approved Minutes for Tuesday, Mar. 3, 2026
5:30 PM at 75 School Street
Wallingford VT Town Hall

- *Members present: K. MacLauchlan, D. Blodgett, K. Welch, T. Fort*
- *Others present: G. Mayer (Selectboard Liaison)*

- Additions/Deletions to Agenda - None

- Approve Minutes of Feb 3rd Meeting - Approved

- Public Comments - None

- Annual Committee Reorganization
 - T. Fort elected Chair
 - J. White elected Vice Chair

- Town Solar Array Federal Tax Credits
 - The IRS responded that the original pre-registration submission needed adjustments. The Town Clerk made the necessary revisions and re-submitted the pre-registration. Filing for tax credit will be submitted upon acceptance of pre-registration by IRS.

- Town Hall Windows and Doors
 - Ken, Jay, and Tom inspected the windows at the Town Hall. Some windows were open and some on the 2nd floor may have been painted in an open position from the outside. Those that could be moved were shut.
 - The windows at the stair landing going to the 2nd floor were open but could be closed tightly. However, it was noted that there is an opening between the landing and the windows that allows air to pass freely between the heated 2nd floor and the unheated basement. This could be addressed with interior storm windows or a foam baffle inserted to close the gap between the landing and window.
 - The exterior storm windows are not air tight and therefore heat has been escaping through the windows that were not closed tightly. Measurements were taken for potential interior storm windows, which would be air-tight. An itemized cost estimate from a local professional installer is pending.
 - Jay prepared a drawing depicting a rod and sealant approach, which could be a low-cost solution to windows that cannot be closed tightly.

- It was noticed during the window inspection that the back door was also not closed tightly and cold air was entering the building. This may be due to weatherstripping on the door that impedes it from closing consistently unless manually shut. An alarm that sounds when the door is open for more than a designated time period was identified as a low cost remedy.
- Once the interior storm window estimate is received, the Committee will consider all options to ensure cost-effective weatherization of windows and doors and present options and recommendations to the Selectboard.
- Town Energy Plan(s)
 - Rutland Regional Planning (RRP) has been updating data and adjusting the draft Municipal Plan (including the Energy section) to ensure alignment with the new requirements. RRP sent the draft plan on 3/2/26 for Energy Committee review and edits. Committee members will send their edits to Tom by 3/13/26. Tom will consolidate and recirculate the revised draft.
 - Following completion of the Energy Section of the Municipal Plan. The Energy Committee will shift focus to the broader Enhanced Energy Plan using the newly updated data from RRP.
- New business from the floor
 - Vermont Energy Action Network hosted a webinar on Heat Pumps in Vermont on 2/13/26. A study was cited that indicated at what external temperature it became cost effective to switch from heat pumps to secondary heat sources. The following results were reported:
 - Natural Gas: 20 to 30F
 - Oil: 0 to 10F
 - Propane: -10 to -20F
 - These results do not take solar power generation into account. Given that the Town Solar array is offsetting electricity costs, and the fact that Natural Gas is not an option, it is likely that heat pumps will remain the most cost effective source of heating and cooling during operational hours of the Town Hall. However, once windows are addressed, the plan remains to assess heat pump operation via digital loggers monitoring outside and inside temperatures throughout the year. This will inform the eventual decision of whether to decommission, repair, or replace the oil burner.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.
- Next meeting will be 5:30pm at Town Hall on April 7, 2026.