**Wallingford Energy Committee**
**Approved Minutes for Tuesday, October 6, 2026**
**Wallingford VT Town Hall**

*Members Present: D. Blodgett, T. Fort, K. Welch, J. White*
*Others Present: M. Humphrey, G. Mayer (Selectboard Liaison)*

- Additions/Deletions to Agenda - None
- Approve Minutes of August 4th Meeting - Unanimously approved
- Public Comments - None
- Town Solar Array
    - Federal Tax Credits
        - The Constituent Advocate sent Wallingford's Federal Solar Tax Credits file to an exam unit at IRS to determine next steps.
    - Renewable power allocation across municipal sites:
        - Group meter allocation will be adjusted to 60% Town Hall main service and 40% Siren service.
        - Glenn compiled a summary of energy generated by the Town Solar Array and energy used across all town sites. Last quarter 12,462 kWh was generated by the array and 5,982 kWh was used across all sites. Excess energy was credited for future use.
- Town Hall Windows
    - The window sealing project was discussed with 3 local contractors.
    - Two of the contractors visited the Town Hall to review project requirements.
    - A bid was received from one of the contractors.
    - The Committee approved moving the bid to the Selectboard for consideration.
- Town Garage Energy Assessment
    - Reps from the Energy Committee and Road Crew toured the Town Garage to identify any potential energy efficiency opportunities.
    - Adding insulation to the upper half of the walls was identified as a potential relatively low-cost improvement that would decrease heat loss.
    - Aging oil burners are a concern. Potential options were brainstormed:

| | **Do Nothing** | **Replace Oil Burner(s)** | **Propane Burner(s)** | **Propane Radiant Tube** | **Electric Radiant Tube** | **Geothermal** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Upfront $** | – | $$$ | $$$$ | $$ | $ | $$$$$ |
| **Oper. $/yr** | $$$ | $$$ | $$$ | $$$ | $$ | $ |
| **Pros** | Lowest Upfront $ | Programmable | GHG:Prop.<Oil<br>Programmable | GHG: Prop.<Oil<br>Programmable<br>No equip flood risk | Low Upfront $<br>Low Operating $<br>No Onsite Fuel<br>No GHG<br>Programmable<br>Solar Supported | Low Operating $<br>No Onsite Fuel<br>No GHG<br>Programmable<br>Solar Supported |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | No equip flood risk | |
| **Cons** | High Operating $<br>Onsite Fuel<br>Highest GHG<br>Not programmable<br>Aging equip.<br>Equip flood risk | High Upfront $<br>High Oper. $<br>Onsite Fuel<br>Highest GHG<br>Equip flood risk | High Upfront $<br>High Operating $<br>Onsite Fuel<br>GHG:Prop>Elect<br>Equip flood risk | High Operating $<br>Onsite Fuel<br>GHG:Prop>Elect | | Highest Upfront $<br>Worst thermal comfort recovery<br>Equip flood risk |

- GHG=Green House Gas

- The Committee will seek grant opportunities to fund improvements prior to making any recommendations for Selectboard considerations.

- Climate Catalyst Innovations Fund
    - Small grant for local energy projects
    - Potential grant for Town Hall window sealing
    - Applications due 10/14/26

- Efficiency Vermont Programs
    - Efficiency Vermont sent an “Event in a Box”, which included pens, notepads, and coloring books with their contact information. The Committee will distribute at town events to help promote contact with Efficiency Vermont expertise and rebate programs.
    - The following upcoming Efficiency Vermont webinars were noted:
        - Home Weatherization 10/7/26
        - Heat Pumps 10/14/26
        - Small Fixes - Big Difference 10/21/26
    - Communicating Efficiency Vermont programs to the public via Wallingford Standard Newsletter and Front Porch Forum was discussed.
        - Post-meeting note: Glenn determined that Efficiency Vermont is already actively advertising their programs on Front Porch Forum.

- Green Driving America - Every Mile Counts Program
    - Green Driving America proposed a free town presentation on gas vehicle driving practices to reduce emissions (Currently pending receipt of grant funds).

- Plug In Solar
    - VECAN & VNRC Plug In Solar presentation was distributed to the Committee on 9/24/26.

- Annual Budget
    - The Committee decided to submit an annual Energy Committee budget proposal of $250 for the next FY budget period.

- New business from the floor
    - The Committee reflected on the recent passing of long-time member, John Armstrong. John was a strong proponent of renewable energy and was ahead of his time in advocating for its adoption. John’s input, expertise, and friendship will be missed.
    - The Committee unanimously approved proposing to the Selectboard that Energy Committee membership be reduced from 7 to 5.
    - The Committee unanimously approved proposing to the Selectboard that Melinda Humphrey be added as a new member.

    - Some town employees and residents have asked whether recent investments in heat pumps at the Town Hall and the solar array at the Town Garage are paying dividends for the town. The Committee discussed two potential approaches:
        - Continue with the prior plan to conduct a detailed financial analysis when the array has been functional for at least 1 full year so that the impact of power generation and usage can be better understood across all seasons. In the meantime, address any concerns as they arise by communicating high level points such as the one noted above that the array produced more than twice the energy used across all municipal sites last quarter and has banked energy credits for future use. Regarding heat pumps, it could be pointed out that the Energy Committee's recommendation and Selectboard's decision to install heat pumps was based on both lower upfront equipment costs and lower long-term operational costs for the town; and that since the time of installation, fossil fuel costs have gone up significantly, further increasing the savings with heat pumps.
        - Conduct the detailed financial analysis now to demonstrate how investments in heat pumps and solar are benefitting the town and present to the Selectboard. Given that the Selectboard meetings are viewed in person and online by many members of the community, this could potentially be an effective way to communicate the benefits sooner.
    - No decision was made. Topic will be carried to the next Energy Committee meeting.

- The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

- The next Energy Committee meeting will be at 5:30pm on Nov. 3, 2026.