

APPROVED MINUTES
Dummerston Energy Committee May 2, 2011

Members attending: Chris Derby, Sam Farwell, Diana Lischer-Goodband, Stan Howe ("Smokey"), and Jerelyn Wilson.

Guests: Brian Richardson (deputy director of Rescue, Inc.), Martha Nelson (taking minutes)

Absent: Bill Conley

1. Approval of minutes of April 4, 2011 meeting. Sam moved to approve, Smokey seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Community Input

a. Jerelyn introduced Martha to committee members. Martha is a Dummerston resident interested in energy issues and has offered to take the monthly minutes.

b. Brian Richardson presentation. Brian reported that he is working with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to obtain funding for purchasing electrical cooling units for mounting on the two ambulances stationed at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital that will eliminate the need for keeping the vehicles idling when not in use. The cost of each unit is from \$15,000 to \$20,000. In Dummerston, he will be talking with the owners of the Irving gas station on Route 30 about installing a cooling unit for use on the ambulance stationed on their lot. The source of funding for this project is uncertain, but Brian suggested it might be a smart public relations gesture for Irving Gas if they provided funding, and will pursue that idea with them. Diana mentioned the possibility of obtaining a community EPA grant. Brian will keep Sam informed of the progress he is making on this project.

3. Current Business

a. Idle-Free Zone signage. Chris handed out copies of the Idle-Free Zone sign for the committee's final review. The committee approved the design and agreed that Chris should order 10 signs to be installed at locations to be determined. Chris will keep the committee informed of the progress on establishing locations and installation. Diana made a motion that we spend the entire \$500 made available by Ben and Jerry's for this project. Sam seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

b. Way-to-Go program. Sam to attend the May 4, 2011 meeting of the Brattleboro Energy Committee that will be conducting its Way to Go Commuter Challenge in May. DEC will put a plan in place for participating in next year's event, including talking to Dummerston-area businesses about incentives they could offer to encourage their employees to find alternative transportation options. Jerelyn made the suggestion that

those students at the Dummerston elementary school who usually opt to have their parents drive them to school be encouraged to ride the bus for a week. The goal is to have at least 20 Dummerston residents participating in the challenge. The committee will make information on the program available at the annual town meeting and will submit a write-up for publication in the *Views*. The item will be put on the agenda for the January retreat.

c. Baseline Energy Consumption Data. Smokey is continuing to gather data on energy consumption in Dummerston. He has found the Small Town Carbon Calculator very useful.

Diana made the suggestion that we put the Fuel Cost Calculator on the DEC website. She will look into it and consider asking Bob Sherwood to put it on the website.

d. Vermont Idle Free Fleets. Diana reported that she missed the application filing deadline, but will submit application to VIFF anyway, since this is not a grant but an opportunity to receive expertise and educational materials.

e. Clean Air Cool Planet. Diana reported that she submitted a grant proposal for \$2,500 to Clean Air Cool Planet for funding an intern to work with DEC and possibly with Putney on a number of projects to be determined, such as gathering baseline data, Transition Putney, the Brattleboro Trail.

f. Movie "Tapped" Diana reported that she presented the movie to the Conservation Committee. She will send Sam a copy of a flier she produced when she showed the film at work. After a discussion of the best time and venue for presenting the film to the public, it was decided that Sam will talk with Rev. Susanna Griefen of the Dummerston Congregational Church about the possibility of showing the movie at the church, either after a Sunday morning service, or in conjunction with the monthly community potluck.

g. LED Street Lighting Program. Smokey reported that he has completed the Memorandum required by Efficiency Vermont in order to qualify for the rebates and technical support they are offering under their Street Lighting Project designed to help Vermont municipalities upgrade their older less efficient lights. He will bring the Memorandum to the next selectboard meeting for the required signatures before submitting it to Efficiency Vermont. Smokey provided the committee with copies of Assessment of Needs Criteria that outlines situations in which lights are, or are not needed, along with a Street Light Inventory showing the location of lights, indicating which ones may possibly be eliminated. He plans to finish the needs assessment by this summer, after which trial outages can be conducted. Eventually, DEC will present the recommendations to the public along with safety data.

h. Regional Energy Round Table meeting April 14. Sam and Smokey represented DEC at the meeting.

i. DEC article for *Views*. Jerelyn reported that she has submitted the article for the next *Views*.

4. New Business

a. School Energy Workshops and Guide Sam reported that he provided the School Board with copies, and that the issue has been put on the school board agenda.

b. Smart Strips. Smokey reported that the strips are available at True Value and Brown and Roberts for \$20, courtesy of Efficiency Vermont. Diana will send information to Bob for posting on website.

c. Grant Report to Ben and Jerry's. Diana will submit report when all the funds have been spent.

d. Availability of minutes. Corrected unapproved minutes will be available upon request at energy@dummerston.org to any community member within a week of each meeting; minutes will be posted on the DEC website after they are approved.

e. Next *Views* article. Next deadline will be included in the June agenda so committee can decide what should be included.

f. Next DEC meeting will be on June 6, 2011.

Diana made a motion to adjourn the meeting (at 7:55), Chris seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.