

MINUTES

Dummerston Energy Committee Meeting – June 6, 2011

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

Guests: Jane Michaud (community member), Martha Nelson (taking minutes)

1. Approval of minutes of May 2, 2011 meeting.

After the minutes were revised to read, "Corrected unapproved minutes will be available upon request at energy@dummerston.org to any community member within a week of each meeting", Sam moved to approve, Diana seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved. Jerelyn to send approved minutes to Bob for uploading to website.

2. Committee news/logistics.

- a.** Diana announced that she has applied to serve on the Dummerston Conservation Commission to act as a liaison between DEC and DCC. She will inform DEC when the commission makes its decision on her application.
- b.** Diana to submit the next *Views* article by the deadline, June 7, to include the announcement that DEC has received grant money to fund an intern, and highlights on the LED street lighting project. She will also provide a photograph of the Idle-Free-Zone sign and caption for inclusion in the next issue.
- c.** The committee has been informed that Ed Anthes nominated Dummerston for the VPIRG program. Diana will determine what relevance the nomination has for DEC.
- d.** Alex to represent DEC at the All Boards meeting on July 7. In the allowed 2-minute presentation, he will provide an update on DEC's activities, including the LED street lighting project, idle-free-zone signage, and exploring the potential for group net metering in Dummerston. Diana and Sam will also attend the meeting.
- e.** Sam reminded the committee of the June 9 forum in Springfield that the Department of Public Service is hosting in order to receive input from the public on updating the state's comprehensive energy plan. Sam to email a copy of the Comprehensive Energy Plan (a 250-page document) to Alex, who may be attending the forum. Jerelyn to write up an executive summary. The item to be added to the July agenda.
- f.** Bill informed the committee of a new product on the market called BioBricks, which are brick-size blocks made of compressed sawdust for use in fireplaces and woodstoves, He purchased a pallet of them (equivalent to a cord of wood) from Perkins Home Center in West Chesterfield for \$275.

3. Current Business

a. Idle-Free Zone Signage. Chris reported that the signs and posts have arrived, together with a bill for \$516 which he will submit to the town office. He has given signs to Lee Chamberlain to be installed at various public places, including the school, post office, covered bridge, two gas stations, KOA, and town office parking area. He will give Diana the necessary files to send to Ben and Jerry's, and let the committee know when the signs have been installed.

b. Vermont Idle Free Fleets. Diana has submitted an application to VIFF which is offering expertise and educational materials that offer suggestions on ways people can break the idling habit.

c. Clean Air Cool Planet. Diana has received a check for \$2,500 from Clean Air Cool Planet for funding an intern to work for 10 weeks with DEC and possibly with Putney on a number of projects, to include gathering baseline energy consumption data and solar coaching. She will consult with Paul LeVasseur to consider possible candidates and start date. She will also put together a job description and provide involved parties with a copy.

d. Municipal energy use data project. Smokey continues to collect data and has begun to populate the Small Town Carbon Calculator with data. He expects to finish gathering information by next month.

e. LED Street Lighting Program. Smokey reported that the Memorandum of Agreement has been signed by the town and sent to Efficiency Vermont and that he will be contacting the engineering firm that will provide 12 hours of expertise and guidance, such as determining what type of fixture is needed to properly light an area. After he has completed his inventory and has determined the project's scope and budget, DEC will apply for a grant. Diana to look into FEMA funding.

Smokey attended the "New Trends in Exterior Lighting Professional Development Workshop" on June 3 in order to update himself, and the committee, on the latest trends in exterior lighting, including the Backlight, uplight, glare (BUG) rating system.

4. New Business

a. Smart Grid Rollout. Bill recommended that DEC learn more about smart grid rollout, a program that helps electricity customers, through data collected by smart meters, manage, monitor and optimize energy use in their homes. Bill will look into how the program works and share his findings at the next meeting.

b. Group Net Metering. Alex discussed the potential for Dummerston to participate in Group Net Metering, a system where residents without optimal solar orientation on their homes could own "shares" of photovoltaic systems that produce their electricity. With

the "Self-Generation and Net Metering" bill recently passed by the legislature, this is an opportune time to make the project a priority. Alex will continue to explore how the system could work in Dummerston, and the item will be placed on the agenda for the July meeting.

5. Date of July meeting.

Since the first Monday falls on July 4, the committee will meet on July 11. Jerelyn will notify Laurie of the date change.

Alex made a motion to adjourn the meeting (at 8:05), Diana seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.