

2011 Retreat
Dummerston Energy Committee
1/9/11

Present: Alex Wilson, Chris Derby, Suzanne Weinberg, Sam Farwell, Diana Lischer-Goodband, Bill Conley, Jerelyn Wilson

1. Check-in

2. Energy Committee Accomplishments in 2010

- Worked with the planning commission to revise and update the energy section of the town plan
- Worked with Dummerston resident Stan Howe (“Smokey”) to replace the lighting for the covered bridge
- Supported the town’s anti-idling resolution; won a grant from Ben and Jerry’s to cover the cost of anti-idling signs, which will be placed at various locations, including the town offices, school, and other sites
- Provided purchasing advice for the acquisition of a new wood stove for the town office
- Continued Alex Wilson’s Energy Solutions column in the Brattleboro Reformer
- Looked into the feasibility of enrolling Dummerston in a state-sponsored program (Property Assessed Clean Energy, or PACE) that would enable residents to make energy-efficiency investments in homes and businesses
- Identified On-Bill Financing as another possible financing option needing research; this would allow homeowners to borrow the money needed for efficiency improvements, repaying those loans through a small monthly charge on their utility bills
- Enhanced web site, accessed through www.dummerston.org, has been re-designed and updated, informing the community of our recent efforts and providing an e-mail link so that residents can contact us
- Continued to work on finding ways to help residents make energy-efficient improvements to their properties

3. Looking ahead to 2011

- A. Want to gather baseline data in order to address goal in Town Plan: To reduce total per-capita non-renewable energy consumption 40% by 2030 from a 2010 baseline
- B. Want to continue to pay attention to energy use in our municipal buildings
- C. Consider contacting energy providers serving town residents (utility companies and oil companies) 1) for aggregate data on energy usage, and 2) to gather info about their attention (or lack of attention) to energy efficient practices (offering a reduced nozzle, maintain boilers regularly) and renewable options offered (biodiesel mix, pellets)
- D. Consider putting together a directory of energy service providers (put in Views, sheet in town office); do it with Brattleboro and/or Putney – if gathering information (C.) is successful
- E. Could collaborate with Brattleboro Energy Committee on the West River Trail
- F. Internet access to provide the opportunity for tele-commuting
- G. Consider outreach activities to build awareness like a Button-up Workshop on the west side of town
- H. Need mission statement on DEC home page and ask to be included in Town Government section on town web home page
- I. Investigate “group net-metering” as a way for Dummerston residents without optimal solar orientation on their homes to own “shares” of photovoltaic systems that produce their electricity

4. Community Center renovations

Alex will let Andrew know that Sam has offered to be DEC point person for gathering information and offering advice to the Selectboard

5. VECAN grant - \$3000 – due January 31, 2011

Diana will draft proposal, probably to fund an intern to work with DEC (possibly with Putney) on a number of projects to be determined, but to include gathering baseline data and researching bulk purchase of PV systems (group net metering); Alex will do initial research on group net metering and communicate with Diana

6. View deadline – January 11

Jerelyn and Alex will submit an article

7. Committee organization

Terms are as follows:

2011 – Sam

2012 – Bill and Chris

2013 – Bob, Suzanne, Diana, and Alex [check]

Need to fill two open positions. (Bob Sherwood – 2013; Suzanne Weinberg – 2013)

Alex elected as chair filling Bob Sherwood's position

Diana moved and Sam seconded, unanimously approved

Jerelyn willing to join committee as an official member and will submit letter of intent to select board

We will look for additional candidates

8. Approved minutes from 12/6/10 meeting

Diana moved and Sam seconded, unanimously approved

Jerelyn to send to Bob Sherwood for website

Next meeting: February 7, 6 pm @ the Town Office