

MINUTES

Dummerston Energy Committee Meeting – July 11, 2011

Tour of Scott Farm 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. David Tansey, executive director of Landmark Trust USA, presented an overview of the renewable energy projects and installations at Scott Farm and led committee members on a tour that included a look at their recently acquired Garn wood boiler and 3.6kw solar PV system that together provide the thermal and electricity needs of the farm. Alex raised the question for David to consider of whether Scott Farm could benefit from having a Group Net Metering PV system installed on its property.

Alex called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Members absent: Chris Derby and Jerelyn Wilson

Guests: Nicole Davis (SCA Energy Intern), Peter Thurrell (principal of Southern Vermont Renewable Energy, or SOVEREN), Jane Michaud (community member), Martha Nelson (taking minutes)

1. Approve minutes of June 6, 2011 meeting.

Sam moved to approve, Diana seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved. Martha to send Minutes to Jerelyn for uploading to the website.

2. Current Business – status

a. Idle-Free Zone Signage. Chris Derby was not present, but Sam reported that signs have been installed at various public places, including the covered bridge and parking area of the town offices. Diana will forward relevant files to Ben and Jerry's when she receives them from Chris.

b. Diana reported that she will not be serving on the Dummerston Conservation Commission but that she will act as a liaison between DEC and DCC.

c. Vermont Idle Free Fleets. Diana is waiting to receive informational and training materials.

d. Status of intern search funded by Clean Air Cool Planet, \$2,500. Committee members introduced themselves to the new SCA Energy Intern, Nicole Davis, and welcomed her aboard. Nicole will be working 20 hours a week for 10 weeks with DEC and Transition

Putney on energy projects to include solar coaching and gathering baseline energy consumption data. She will begin her projects in a couple of weeks, after she has completed some basic training.

e. Status of Municipal energy use data project. Smokey continues to collect data.

f. LED Street Lighting Program. Committee members to consider Smokey's recommendations for the elimination of lights as indicated on his Street Lighting Inventory chart and, after visiting the various locations if possible, make their recommendations at the August meeting. Diana will look into FEMA funding.

g. Diana spoke with Ed Anthes regarding Dummerston's nomination for the VPIRG program, but reported that it is not entirely clear to her what relevance, if any, the nomination has for DEC.

h. All Boards Meeting June 7, 2011. Alex represented DEC at the meeting and provided 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 also attended the meeting.

i. Sam presented on the following energy resources to the committee:

The Energy Planning and Implementation Guide for Vermont Municipalities, a how-to tool for energy-interested Vermonters who want to work with local officials and community leaders to use the energy element of their town plan to comprehensively address energy issues.

Communities Tackling Vermont's Energy Challenges which offers a snapshot of the innovative, entrepreneurial and proactive approaches Vermonters are taking to help save money, reduce energy consumption, transition to renewables and combat climate change. This document overviews over three-dozen remarkable success stories where Vermonters are helping to lead the necessary transition away from a fossil-fuel based economy to one based on conservation, efficiency, renewable energy and innovation.

Diana to order a supply of the brochures. Sam recommended that a file drawer for DEC resource materials be established at the town office, and he will explore that possibility.

j. Smart Grid Rollout. Bill reported that CVPS will be installing meters in Dummerston this winter, and spring 2012. He will contact CVPS about having a representative come to Dummerston to provide information on the program at a public meeting or possibly at a DEC meeting. He will report on this at the August meeting.

3. New Business

a. Group Net Metering. Peter Thurrell, principal of SOVEREN, gave an overview of PV systems and Group Net Metering, including information on tax credits, depreciations, and other incentives available under the investment structure that reduce the initial cost of installing the system. He also explained the difference between stationary mounts, which are seasonally adjustable, and trackers which follow the sun. Alex will continue to gather information on Group Net Metering and the feasibility of installing a community or municipal system in Dummerston. The item will be placed on the agenda for the September meeting.

b. Transition Towns movement. Jane offered to contact Susanna Griefen, who enthusiastically supports the Transition Towns movement, to explore the possibility of organizing a training session to be held in Dummerston.

4. Final Items

a. Date and time of August meeting. August 1, 6:00 pm.

b. *Views* article. Sam to determine the deadline for the next *Views* article.

Diana made a motion to adjourn the meeting (at 8:21), Smokey seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.