

MINUTES

Dummerston Energy Committee Meeting -- September 12, 2011

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

Guests: Nicole Davis (SCA Energy Intern), Martha Nelson (taking minutes)

Jerelyn called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

1. Approve minutes of August 1, 2011 meeting.

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

2. Current Business – UPDATES

a. Idle-Free Zone Signage (Chris)

Sam reported that KOA has been provided with a sign and that they will be installing it themselves. He spoke to the manager of Irving Gas on Route 30 in Dummerston who is agreeable to having a sign installed at the site. She will notify Sam after contacting the owner for his approval. Now that signs have been installed, or will soon be installed, at designated locations, Diana can send documentation to Ben and Jerry together with a letter thanking them for their grant of \$500 to fund the project.

b. Vermont Idle Free Fleets (Diana)

Diana reported that a representative has contacted her about meeting with the committee. However, before scheduling a meeting, Diana will inquire about what relevance their materials and services have for a small rural town such as Dummerston that does not have what one would think of as fleets. She will also inquire if their services tie in with the effort by Brian Richardson to obtain funding for purchasing electrical cooling units that will eliminate the need to keep ambulances idling when not in use. Sam will contact Brian to receive an update on the progress he is making with the project.

c. SCA Energy Intern, Nicole Davis

Nicole reported on the progress she is making on projects, as follows:

- Transition Putney – solar training status. Nicole announced that she is ready to do solar coaching. Diana will draft a notice of Nicole's availability to be posted on our web page and do a press release together with Transition Putney that solar coaching will be available to all residents of Dummerston and Putney, and anyone within the 05346 zip. She will also include the notice in the next Views article.

- Nicole is working with Smokey to gather baseline energy consumption data. She has contacted some energy suppliers to obtain data on residential energy usage and is developing a database of suppliers. She acknowledged that, because the suppliers often provide data by region rather than by town, whatever baseline data is collected, will not be precise.
- Nicole informed the committee of the Transition Putney's Economic Summit that is being held on October 1 and which will include a tour of residential solar installations. She emphasized that it would be beneficial to Dummerston residents to attend the summit to familiarize themselves with the solar process and to learn from others what questions to ask when talking with potential installers. In relation to solar energy, Alex talked about the Sun Eye, the solar assessment device developed by Integrated Solar. Jerelyn suggested that Alex contact the manufacturer of the Sun Eye to inquire if they might be interested in donating one of their devices for use by the town of Dummerston.
- Nicole informed the committee of Transition Putney's Community Solar project, and will report on that at a future meeting.

d. Municipal energy use data project (Smokey) Smokey continues to collect data.

e. LED Street Lighting Program.

- Smokey and Sam presented the committee's recommendations for the elimination of street lights to the Dummerston Selectboard. The Selectboard has scheduled a public meeting to discuss the proposed eliminations to be held on September 21, at 6:30 in the Community Center. In advance of the meeting, the Town Office sent out letters drafted by Smokey to thirteen residents who will be affected by the eliminations. Also, signs announcing that "This fixture has been recommended for elimination" will be placed on the affected poles (pending power company approval). Smokey also prepared a Frequently Asked Questions flyer which is available at the Town Office. Sam will call the Town Office to determine how the Selectboard is warning the meeting, and specifically to learn if they will be creating flyers for posting in various places in town, or if that is something the committee should do. Smokey and Sam will be attending the meeting.
- Sam has informed the School Board that an Efficiency Vermont engineer is analyzing the public space lighting at the school. Sam and Smokey will set up a meeting with the School Board to discuss nighttime use of lights at the school.
- Diana: funding. Smokey and Sam estimated that the LED Street Lighting Program would cost roughly \$10,000, not including rebates. Diana will keep her eye open for any funding that might be available.

- Smokey gave a video presentation of the quality of LED lighting in the Town Office parking lot and entrance to the building.

f. Copies of *The Energy Planning and Implementation Guide for Vermont Municipalities and Communities Tackling Vermont's Energy Challenges* that Diana ordered have not yet been received.

g. Smart Grid Rollout

The committee is hosting a public informational meeting on September 22 at 7 pm at the Evening Star Grange with presentations by representatives from CVPS and GMP, followed by questions from the audience. Alex Wilson volunteered to facilitate the meeting. To advertize the meeting, the Town Office sent out a notice by email to community members on their email list; Bill and Sam to contact the Reformer and the Commons to request they publish a notice of the meeting; and Alex will ask Tristan to make the meeting the subject of the Energy Solutions column which will run on September 20.

h. DEC website project listing. The recommendation was made that updating the project list be a monthly agenda item, and that individual committee members update the list as projects are introduced and completed.

i. Go VT Pilot program

Diana read a Letter of Interest she wrote over the signature of Jerelyn Wilson requesting a grant of \$500 from Go Vermont to promote the state's alternative transportation program.

j. VT Comprehensive Energy Plan

Nicole reported that she is still reading through the 250-page publication, but pointed out key points of the plan, which include a push for renewable energy, and in particular, energy produced by hydroelectric power.

3. New Business

Alex recommended that, in the aftermath of the recent flooding with its power outages and other destruction, the committee consider what measures the town could take in the form of incentives, mandates, or education to promote energy resiliency. The matter will be considered at a future meeting.

4. Upcoming events.

Jerelyn informed the committee of the following upcoming events:

PACE forum on October 15th, in South Royalton.

4th Annual Vermont Community Energy and Climate Action Conference which will be held on Saturday, December 3rd from 9:00 am- 4:00 p.m. at the Lake Morey Inn in Fairlee, Vermont.

Local Energy & Agriculture Festival (LEAF) — September 17
www.leafvt.org. This fantastic, free event in Bradford, Vermont takes place on September 17 from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m.

The 350.org-inspired day of International Climate Action: **Moving Planet**— September 24; Moving Planet is a worldwide rally to demand solutions to the climate crisis.

The Next Round of **Button Up Vermont Home Energy Efficiency Workshops**.
(The committee will not be conducting a workshop as it is too busy.)

Sam reminded the committee that there will be an **Introduction to Transition** Towns meeting with presenter Paul LeVasseur on Friday, September 16, 7 pm at the Dummerston Center Church.

5. Final Items

a. The next meeting is scheduled for October 3 at 6:00 pm. Diana volunteered to chair the meeting. Jerelyn to email the agenda to Diana.

b. Dummerston Views deadline. September 20.
Diana will write a Views article reporting on the SCA Internship and other projects.

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