

## **Dummerston Energy Committee - 7 March 2011 6 - 8 pm**

**Present:** Sam Farwell, Chris Derby, Diana Lischer-Goodband, Alex Wilson, Jerelyn Wilson, Stan Howe

**Absent:** Bill Conley

**Guests:** Lester Humphries, Paul Cameron (Brattleboro Energy Committee)

### **1. Approved minutes from 2/7/11 meeting**

Unanimously approved with Alex's minor change. **Jerelyn** to send to Bob for uploading to website.

### **2. Welcoming Jerelyn and Stan Howe (Smokey) to the Committee**

Smokey mentioned gathering baseline data, especially electrical as a special interest of his.

### **3. New wood stove for town office**

Town staff working in Town office all seem to be happy with temperature; a few logistical things are problematic; **Sam** to stay in touch.

### **4. Community Center renovations - Sam**

Nothing substantial to report yet.

### **5. Town Meeting review**

Nothing substantial to report.

### **6. Visit from Brattleboro Energy Committee - Paul Cameron, Lester Humphries**

Share what Brat is working on and look for opportunities to collaborate.

- Way To Go Commuter Challenge - state-wide program centered around particular week in May; has website; individuals and businesses can sign up; looking into going beyond the week; goal of signing up 1,000 commuters; **Wed. March 30<sup>th</sup> at BMH @ 11:30 am - 1:30 pm.** Goal might be to sign up 20 people from Dummerston; website, posters - **Diana** to take the lead.

**Sam** to go to Way To Go meeting at BMH end of March and introduce DEC interest in Dummerston routes;

- Online Renewable Energy Gallery - photos and information about homes and businesses with solar panels; good way to get the word out about what exists around town - solar hot water and PV, could include anything; currently on the

Town of Marlboro website; Paul is working on this for Brattleboro; **Alex** will contact Bob Sherwood about the Renewable Energy Atlas.

- West River Trail – trying to make this trail more formal and will require permissions from landowners. Rice Farm Rd in Dummerston along rail road path to Marina restaurant. Upper part near Londonderry is complete. **Diana is keeping eye out for funding; Alex to be the contact;**

## **7. Priorities for 2011**

### **1. Baseline energy consumption data for Dummerston – Jerelyn, Smokey**

Goal in Town Plan: To reduce total per-capita non-renewable energy consumption 40% by 2030 from a 2010 baseline

Contact energy providers serving town residents (utility companies and oil companies) to collect aggregate data on energy usage

CleanAir-Cool Planet.org; VECAN.net; look for spreadsheet for small towns

Heating – Paul used DOE statistics – not very accurate but

Electric is easy to get – call CVPS and GMP

Transportation – traffic count data from DOT; survey of town employees

Municipal and school data can be very accurate;

**Smokey** will do some initial digging and be in touch with committee

### **2. Addressing energy use in our municipal buildings – Bill, Sam, Smokey**

**Smokey** to gather info for Town Office and then we will use this as a basis for what we want to collect for the school

### **3. Button-Up Workshops and other activities to build energy awareness – Sam**

Plan for fall event in the Community Center for West River Valley; early summer project

### **4. Directory of energy service providers – Diana** (put in Views, sheet in town office)

Possibly with Brattleboro and/or Putney Energy Committees; this would be a good task for intern

### **5. Reducing transportation energy intensity/use in Dummerston – Alex**

Collaborate with Brattleboro Energy Committee on bike trails

Address public transportation options – Sam will report from Way To Go meeting at BMH end of March where he will introduce our interest in Dummerston routes;

Internet access to provide the opportunity for telecommuting – we'd provide a letter of support if asked.

Relevant email from Dummerston resident:

*Eesha Williams wrote:*

*Cars cause air pollution which causes lung cancer, which kills thousands of people every year. Cars also cause global warming. People who are too young, too old, or too poor to own a car are often stuck at home. These are among the reasons why the Dummerston energy committee should ask the town of Brattleboro how much it would cost to try running the Bee Line bus through Dummerston.*

*The Bee Line now goes from downtown Brattleboro (which is served by Amtrak and Greyhound) to Old Ferry Road near Route 5 in Brattleboro. This is less than a mile from Dummerston. Connecticut River Transit runs a bus along Route 5 between downtown Brattleboro, the Dummerston school, and downtown Putney.*

*The Dummerston select board should find out how much it would cost to run the Bee Line from the Old Ferry Road stop, up Middle Road to the Dummerston town office, then on to the Dummerston library, and back.*

*This could be a six-month trial to see how many people ride the bus. Federal and state money is available to defray the cost. Bee Line buses have bicycle racks. The bus could run around 8 a.m., noon, and 5 p.m. People could flag it down at safe spots along along Middle and East-West roads. The trial bus service should be promoted at least a month before it starts in the Views of Dummerston, and the other local newspapers.*

**Jerelyn** will respond for the DEC

#### **6. Investigate “group net-metering” - Alex**

How Dummerston residents without optimal solar orientation on their homes could own “shares” of photovoltaic systems that produce their electricity

#### **8. Leadership and membership of Energy Committee**

Alex to step aside as chair due to upcoming 8-month sabbatical during which time he will likely be missing a number of DEC meetings; he will remain a committee member

Bill moved that we elect Jerelyn as chair, Diana seconded; all approved;

Chris agreed to take notes at next meeting.

## **9. Adjourn at 7:43 pm**

**Next meeting:** April 4, 6 pm @ the Town Office

### **Announcements:**

Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 9 - 1 pm Lawn Mower exchange

Saturday, May 14 BioMass for heating with speakers, vendors and tour;

### **Action items:**

Jerelyn to send to Bob for uploading to website.

Sam to stay in touch with town staff re: new stove

Alex will contact Bob Sherwood about the Renewable Energy Atlas.

Smokey to gather energy usage data info for Town Office and research what other small towns have used for collection of such data

Jerelyn will respond to Eesha William's email for the DEC