

Dummerston Energy Committee 7 February 2011 6 – 7:45 pm

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

Update: Suzanne submitted a letter of resignation to the Selectboard 2/5/11

1. Approved notes from 1/9/11 retreat

Sam moved, Diana seconded, approved unanimously

2. Update on VECAN grant for \$3000 (submitted 2/3/11)

Received letter of support from Transition Putney; office in Putney is available although small; Alex brought attention to/clarified #3 – bike path along Route 5; Paul Cameron is interested in coordinating with DEC also. Will hear about the proposal in April.

3. Update on new stove for town office

Sam will come to town office tomorrow when the stove will be installed; he has ordered four programmable thermostats for the electric heat that will continue to be used for back-up.

4. Community Center renovations – update

Sam is point person and will contact Lester Dunklee and try to get to the next Community Center board meeting; DEC would recommend an energy audit before going ahead with specific strategies; we might help come up with money to fund an energy audit, research who could do it and what it would cost.

5. Energy Committee budget – update

Diana submitted to Lori; \$200 is in the budget and needs to be approved at Town meeting.

6. Leadership and membership of Energy Committee

Terms are as follows:

2011 – Sam

2012 – Bill and Chris

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

Jerelyn willing to serve – 1/12/11 sent email to SB; she is the only person who submitted for open position created by Bob Sherwood; likely will have interview prior to next DEC meeting;

Suzanne has resigned – 2/5 sent email to SB

Stan Howe has submitted letter of interest and he could fill Suzanne's seat

Update on other possibilities for future members – could be active in committee w/o being members

Sandy Bourne – has declined
Jeff Unsicker – has declined

Martha Miller
Chad or Amelia Farnum
Calvin Farwell

7. DEC activities for 2011 – Establish priorities among items identified at January retreat and in the grant-writing process. This will include the following:

5-high 1- low

Top priorities:

1) 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 (Rating: 5)

Consider contacting energy providers serving town residents (utility companies and oil companies) for aggregate data on energy usage and any energy conservation services they provide

Paul Cameron has experience and will be a good support

2) Continue to pay attention to energy use in our municipal buildings
Continue as town needs: town office, garage, community center, school, grange; (Rating: 5)

Consider adding energy/fuel use of vehicles to that of buildings

3) Provide outreach activities to build awareness like a Button-up Workshop on the west side of town (Rating: 4)
Sam willing to put effort into this in the fall;

4) Put together a directory of energy service providers (put in Views, sheet in town office); do it with Brattleboro and/or Putney – if gathering information is successful (Rating: 3)

Consider contacting energy providers serving town residents (utility companies and oil companies) 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)

5) Transportation – identify strategies for reducing energy intensity of Dummerston park and ride, car pooling, telecommuting, bike paths (Rating: 3)

Alex interesting in championing this effort

Collaborate with Brattleboro Energy Committee on the West River Trail and a potential bike path along with Connecticut River railroad corridor; great project for next year and will be ready to support any other groups putting efforts toward these ends

6) Research “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 (Rating: 3)

Alex has a report; Chris and Bill interested in seeing it

7) Work on providing high-speed Internet access to the entire town—to enable energy-saving tele-commuting (Rating: 1)

We could write a letter of support

8. Town meeting is March 1 – DEC presence

Jerelyn to circulate draft Handout – maybe 100 copies

9. Discussion on "transition" community – *discussion postponed from 12/6 mtg*

Approached by Conservation Committee with this idea; the grant will help us learn about Transition Towns; Slow Living Summit (June 1-3) is a broader event

TO DO: Add mission statement to DEC home page and ask to be included in Town Government section on town web home page; Sam to get mission statement to Bob and email Kevin about DEC

Adjourned 7:45 pm

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