

SPRINGFIELD ENERGY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 16, 2014

Bob Forguites

From: James Ball <jball@vermontel.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 21, 2014 8:59 PM
To: George T. McNaughton; Hallie Whitcomb; Mary Ann Remolador; John Pugh;
jball@vermontel.net; tosmanger@vermontel.net; David Yesman; Michael Knoras;
<stmarys@vermontel.net>
Subject: Minutes: Springfield Energy Committee 6/19/14

The meeting began at 6:30. Bob Forguites stopped in briefly to explain the new open meeting law. Basically, scheduled meetings need to be posted in two places besides the town office and possibly the minutes of past meetings should be posted also. He was going to get back to John and Mary Ann regarding these changes.

The representative from H.B. Energy Solutions was unable to make the meeting.

The Winstanley solar project is underway in North Springfield amidst much red tape. This is comprised of a small solar farm located at the same place as the formally planned biomass plant.

John suggested that we invite Jason Rasmussen to our next meeting. He is the assistant director of The Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission and will talk about this "red tape" and how to get through it in planning energy projects. A suggested question to ask Jason is; "Can the select board approve energy projects or do we need a referendum from the voters?"

Hallie suggested that we also invite a lady named Onika who is involved w a group named SUNCOMMON. She can speak about an plan that helps towns and individuals finance energy projects by paying off loans through their electric bill. More specifics on this later.

A discussion took place re. the pros and cons of an Energy Committee Facebook page . The pros included excellent feedback re. future potential projects. The negative aspects included the need to monitor the page to avoid spammers and trash feedback. This will be re visited at a future date.

Discussion re. the town hall as our first energy saving project. A thought was expressed that the money saved as a result of properly insulating the building should be used to address the next energy saving project e.g.. the fire department. In order to present a plan to the select board, it was decided that we need an estimate re. the cost of repairing and insulating the building, an estimate of fuel that would be saved and pictures of the heat loss that were taken during an earlier energy test. It was mentioned that there might be funds available in the present budget to address this project.

The energy committee would like to know how much money was saved by replacing the old mercury street lights. Jeff Mobus or GMP might have the answer.

George suggested that the committee should focus several meetings on writing an energy plan to go along with the town plan. This would often act as a guide to the state planning commission or to a lawyer involved in a legal discussion re. future energy projects.

The meeting ended at 8:05. Respectfully submitted by Jim Ball