

Bob Forguites

From: Mary Ann Remolador <maryannremolador@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2014 10:49 AM
To: Bob Forguites
Subject: Fw: July energy committee minutes

Bob, Below are the 7/17 Energy Committee Meeting minutes. Please ask Donna to post these on the Town website. Thank you.

Mary Ann Remolador

On Friday, July 18, 2014 9:34 AM, James Ball <jball@vermontel.net> wrote:

Those attending: J. Pugh, M.A. Remolador, G. McNaughton, D. Yesman, H. Whitcomb, J. Ball

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm.

Bob Forguites stopped in briefly to announce that a representative of Winstanley Enterprises would speak at the 8/11 select board's meeting regarding the N. Springfield solar farm project. The town will be invited to purchase power from Winstanley at a 12- 15% savings over a 20 year period. Electricity could be used to power all or some of town facilities. A question was raised as to whether a town vote should be held re. this together w the school board and also re. the value of an energy committee recommendation. The water and sewer dept. being the biggest user of electricity would greatly benefit. Should the town consider electric heat in town buildings?

Jason Rasmussen from SWCRPC spoke to the board re. obtaining approval for energy projects. He made the following points:

- Energy committee should be actively involved in writing the energy chapter of the town plan.

- Net metered projects are exempt from zoning regs.

- The Public Service Board is the governing entity. Renewable energy projects under 15 kw requires simple application; 15-150 kw requires more complex 3 step process; 150+--hire a lawyer.

- Grants for above are few but Jason will keep us informed.

- The town of Wilmington received \$25000 from voters to be invested in energy projects. Voters seem to respond positively to investing in energy saving projects if they see savings down the road. These savings can then be re-invested in more energy conservation projects. Jason is willing to speak to the select board re. this.

- Jason will inform the committee re. potential wind project sites in Springfield.

- The PACE program which provides assistance to homeowners towards energy conservation has been adopted by Cavendish and Weathersfield. Should Springfield adopt this?

Anika James from SunCommon ([anika @ suncommon.com](mailto:anika@suncommon.com)) 802 310-6242; spoke to the board re. services provided. SunCommon will visit a homeowner, design an appropriate solar system to meet electrical needs, select the best equipment, install the system and manage all of the paperwork for permits and incentives. Homeowner will then make monthly payments to SunCommon, similar to previous payments paid to GMP for a period of 12 or more years. At the end of payback period the homeowner owns the system and will enjoy free electricity. This system can include cold climate heat pumps that will heat houses. Peck Electric and Morgan Corporation provide installation services. SunCommon has just started in Windsor County and could be promoted at a future promotion

ceremony for the electric car fueling station. SunCommon is creating a program for communities similar to the existing program for homeowners. Anika will have the manager of this service contact us. State and federal incentives are expiring over the next few years so quick action is important.

A lengthy discussion re. insulating the town hall followed. It was decided that yours truly would draft a letter to Bob Forguites, to be edited by board members, and that this letter would be presented to the town manager encouraging immediate action. A tentative letter was drafted and emailed to attending board members on 7/17.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20

Respectfully submitted by Jim Ball