

Underhill Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes ,7:00 p.m. July 1, 2008

Members Present: Gerry Adams, Peter Duval, Shelley Jurkiewicz, and Bob Murphy.

Guest: Brian Bourgeois (7:15)

7:00 p.m. **Call to Order**

7:05 p.m. **Motion** by Gerry Adams, seconded by Bob Murphy, to approve minutes of June 5, 2008. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment tabled.

Recruitment discussion began with a listing of possible candidates. Bob suggested recruiting a selectboard member. Shelley will discuss this with the Town Administrator, Chris Murphy, to seek an invitation to the next Selectboard meeting.

7:15 p.m. **Public Comment** taken up with the arrival of Brian Bourgeois. Brian has a keen interest in geopolitics and engineering. He would like to help with do-it-yourself projects. He is active with the Fire Department and has a conflict with Tuesday night meetings. He would like to see the committee lobby for changes in state legislation/regulation that will clear the way for local action. Brian distributed an article "Catastrophe' Awaits Maine: Angus King" June 19, 2008 *The Ellsworth American*.

There was some discussion about the usefulness of light bulb campaigns.

Gerry would like to see two things on the Town web site: (1) fuel cost comparison, and (2) an energy auditor list.

Peter gave a report about last week's energy planning workshop in South Royalton.

Brian noted that the Fire Department has an inspection policy. They will inspect any heating system for fire risk.

Shelley summarized by noting the urgency of the winter heating season crisis and the committee's large scope and varied possible projects. We can (a) give up, or (b) narrow the committee's focus.

Bob would like to focus on thermal efficiency. We should do something in September, after about one month of advertising. By September we will know about the resources that the state will have available, and the 211 service will be operating.

Bob described a municipal bond program that Berkeley, CA is planning to fund rooftop solar photovoltaic systems. He has a copy of the briefing paper.

Peter suggested dividing the areas of effort among more parties: (1) Awareness, (2) Incremental Resource Building, (3) Emergency/Contingency Planning.

Shelley proposed a schedule for activities going forward:

July – Divide and gather resources.

August-September – Advertising

September -- Seminar

We discussed the role of the *Mountain Gazette* (perhaps using select “Ask Rachel” columns versus creating web resources, a Project Porchlight-like canvass versus advertising for a central event. Brian offered to draft a “scare piece” for our review.

Going forward, Shelley will contact Chris Murphy and request to have the meeting with the Selectboard next week, and discuss the authority that the committee has to undertake projects. We will meet July 15 at 7:00 p.m.

For the next meeting we will be trying to answer the following questions:

- (1) What’s coming?
- (2) How can we prepare?
- (3) What resources are available?

A number of web resources were discussed and offers to exchange links were made. Bob mentioned a Good Ideas Group at VEIC which accepts grant proposals in January.

8:45 p.m. **Motion** by Gerry Adams, seconded by Bob Murphy, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Duval

Read and Approved as submitted/amended

Tom Moore, Chair

Date