

*Final*

Town of Underhill Energy Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
April 13, 2016

Quorum established.

Present Chris Miller (CM), Pete Bennett (PB), Tom Moore (TM), April Desclos (AD), Jerry Adams (JA), Peter Duval (PD)

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.

There were no adjustments to Agenda.

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Public Comment Period – no comments

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PB reviewed some guidelines he would follow as Chair esp sticking to subject and time guidelines. Reviewed rules of procedure including that no single member can act on or represent the committee unless committee has delegated that power. Agreed that inquiries should be directed to chair and chair will convey requirement that committee must vote on such requests

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Discussed who we can/should provide services to e.g. fire department inquiry  
Some sentiment that we should be willing to respond to any requests for same.  
PB felt that our stated mission doesn't call for providing help beyond Town itself and town residents. He is concerned about responsibility for results and liability issues.

TB, CM,PD, and JA would like to take a broader view.

All seemed to agree that anybody on the committee is free to act as an individual in responding to inquiries.

Agreed to take a closer look at this. PB will circulate documents regarding Committee "charter" which seem to him to define committee activities.

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Minutes from March meeting were reviewed but not yet approved. We agreed to take up final approval at next meeting

Committee discussed fact that we have been unable to select a new Secretary. We agreed to continue to work to solve this problem but in the meantime will rotate minute recording among committee members. PB will do minutes for 4-13-2016; AD agreed to do them for the May meeting.

Committee thanked PD for his excellent minutes over last two(?) years.

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It was pointed out that the town budget has for each of three years included \$500 for the Energy Committee. The amount for FY15 was not spent and does not flow forward. That full amount for FY16 is available but would need to be spent before June 30, 2016.

CM recalled that he had requested larger amounts in the past but they had not been approved, Committee members discussed what expenses would qualify for reimbursement. PB agreed he would ask Brian Bigelow this question. CM thought it might be appropriate to spend some on a group of books sponsored by the committee at the library.

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The committee discussed an inquiry from Jericho Energy Task Force (JETF) inquiry regarding possible interest in collaborating on some sort of public presentation of energy topics. PB noted that he had followed up with JETF chair Reed Sims and that there was no clear statement from them on what they had in mind. Committee agreed to not pursue at present.

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PD asked to discuss the possibility of a member of Committee doing research on an energy topic and do a 15 minute presentation each meeting. The purpose would be to educate the Committee on the latest/best thinking on the topic.

While there were concerns about the extra time this would take at each meeting, the Committee agreed to take a further look at this. PD agreed to write a brief blurb on the format and possible content for such presentations. Also agreed that Committee would vote on the interest in each proposed presentation in the prior meeting.

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Committee spent considerable time on activities and proposed projects as follows:

1. Booth for Harvest market: CM will pursue reserving this.
2. Energy leakage/abatement outreach: Committee discussed best format for this. TM was considering using an expert presentation. He is the only Committee member who could do this himself. A better option might be to get someone like Dave Keefe from Efficiency Vermont to come out a do this. PB said he is very good at this. AD agreed to contact him to see if he still does this.

Another venue for outreach is via articles in Mt Gazette. We have done this in the past. A third option mentioned is to pursue video presentations but consensus was that this is a lot of work and Committee should investigate existing videos.

3. Energy Day home tours: pursued in past years; committee agreed that this was a lot of work to organize. Decided to put this off until next year. JA pointed out that time of year could be an issue.
4. Involve local scouts in an energy project. TM stated that he had made in inquiry but no response yet. He pointed out that we would need to generate materials to explain and support such an effort.
5. Underhill Web site possibilities: PB said that he and AD had begun to investigate approaches to this. PB mentioned that he has been in touch with Efficiency Vermont who supports energy committees in this endeavor. Also, VECAN has an expert who helps in this area.

AD has been in touch with the UVM Rubenstein School regarding the possibility of an intern to help with web site design.

Before we can proceed on any of these avenues, we must think through possible content, platforms, and format: there are many options. In evaluating any of these, it is critical to consider on-going expense as well as maintenance demands.

6. Energy Committee Blog: PD feels this is a superior way of realizing an Underhill Energy Committee presence on the web. He points out that we already have an existing blog as the basis for efforts in this vein. PB stated that we need to pursue both approaches (interactive web site/blog) and see how they might complement one another.

7. Library resource: CM is pursuing; says DRML has only two of the books being proposed by PD. We might be able to spend some money on procuring others.

8. Town Plan follow-up: PB is staying in touch with Planning Commission on this.

9. Town Landfill Solar development: JA has talked with Dean Grover (consultant on landfill suitability for solar siting) about the Underhill landfill. They agreed that there are potential pollution problems which would at this time preclude such a development. Committee agreed to remove this from current list of projects.

10. Track PACE program: PB will pursue.

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Brief discussion of Underhill Conflict of Interest policy; everybody signed forms.

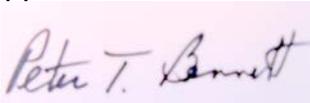
AD as agreed before will monitor our compliance with open meeting law.

Next regularly scheduled meeting is May 11, 2016

On motion by TM, seconded by CM, meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted  
Peter Bennett

Approved:



May 11, 2016  
Peter Bennett  
Chair