

TOWN OF UNDERHILL
ENERGY COMMITTEE → DRAFT MINUTES
Underhill Town Hall
6:30 P.M. Wednesday March 11, 2020

6:32 called to order

- **In attendance:** Peter Bennett (PB), Michael Oman (MO), Dwight DeCoster (DD), Steve Webster (SW), Nicole Bourassa (NB)
member emeritus Gerry Adams (GA)
*NB recorder

Public Comment Period

N/A

Adjustments to the agenda

- delay election of officers until April

Review/approve minutes from Feb. 12, 2020

- DD moved acceptance of minutes, all approved

Action Items Review

1. EV Chargers:
 - a. MO reviewed conclusion that best approach is to incorporate into regularly travelled routes;
 - b. Something may come out of Transportation Committee;
 - c. Jericho Energy Task Force is exploring;
 - d. EVs for commercial vehicles starting to become more practical--town could start thinking ahead about this and charging stations, and connecting to solar;
 - e. Use website as a tool for community and others to provide info on where EV chargers are available; SW mentioned the app Plug in Chargers
 - f. PB asks how we might promote more EV use in Underhill with EV charger; MO says it just becomes part of the network, part of something bigger
 - g. PB asks which charger makes the most sense? Seems a Level II is best
 - h. Locating one really involves Jericho, given all the sensible locations
 - i. **MO is keeping tabs on this and with Jericho--again, most likely will come out of Transportation committee work**
2. Grant Monies:
 - a. PB reviewed the only money to be found was the Grassroots Fund Grow Grants, max amount available of \$3500
 - b. PB downloaded application and reviewed--lots of "unrealistic information"
 - c. SW asked if we received our \$4000 requested budget? Yes we did, but not available until July 1, 2020
 - d. NB asks about performance/reporting requirements about holding us accountable to how money was spent, etc.; PB did not see a lot of info on this at this time, assume there will be reporting around how used, number of homes impacted, etc.
 - e. DD says we can get a blower door for \$3650

- f. **PB to call the fund to get some more info on the application, etc.**
- 3. Infra-red camera:
 - a. DD is working on it
- 4. Net metering issue:
 - a. SW tabled for future meeting
- 5. Forums--topics, scheduling, marketing--what's our best pitch
 - a. DD we will be doing less
 - b. DD suggests as a survey to get input from community about topics, timing, etc.
 - c. **SW to work with DD to draft**

Priorities for 2020

1. Climate change? How upfront should we be?
 - a. SW thinks it is a reality we shouldn't skirt around; DD agrees
 - b. Phrase it in a way that is less volatile
 - c. DD finds it easier to talk about it in terms of energy conservation of resources and effect on national security, cheapest energy is the energy we don't use...
 - d. MO says this can be a practical approach and need to be honest about what we are doing
 - e. PB asks how critical is it to say we are fighting climate change; thinks we can get too bogged down in "are we making a difference in Underhill or VT?"
 - f. GA shares WWII experience of how much sacrifice was required
 - g. DD talked about challenge to find a buyer for a type of plastic--very frustrating; seems as same argument regarding climate change
 - h. **PB asked SW to write a paragraph/bullet points about the three things we support: conservation, efficiency, and renewable**
 - i. DD suggests we need to have different approach for the different people/groups we talk to
 - j. MO suggests we have a secondary/indirect approach such as including resources on our website
2. Weatherization--how to promote, what else besides Button-Up can we do? Partner with?
 - a. MO suggests we find/come up with a decent BTU calculator, and add some pieces of information--ie. fuel type--to show savings/year---could be a useful tool to put on website
 - b. PB are we to look for a model?
 - c. MO plenty around to choose from (?); add "bells & whistles" (like air-source heat pumps) as needed
 - d. PB asks what we put on the web?
 - e. SW thinks we should use something already out there
 - f. MO thinks we can build it
 - g. **SW and MO to draft simple tool with google sheets**
3. Website considerations--audience? Review outline, look at other towns
 - a. SW still on his mind to have an interactive map
 - b. MO we should do this as self-reporting, and include things like EVs
 - c. SW followed up with PUC for what's available like CPGs, but no addresses included--need this to make a map
 - d. **SW to keep working on this**
4. Other:
 - a. Another solar array? What other town-owned land is possible?

Committee Operations

1. Review of ROP (Rules of Procedure)
 - a. PB to send to committee members for review
 - b. Last revision was April 2019
2. Conflict of Interest Forms
 - a. PB to get forms to us
3. Vacant Spot on Committee
 - a. One response from FPF posting to review--some schedule conflicts
 - b. Run ad again?
 - c. Welcomed GA as a "Member Emeritus" for special hands-on projects.
4. Officer elections postponed until May
5. Re-appointments of MO, DD, NB
 - a. Need to be approved/stamped by Select Board
6. Next meeting April 8, 2020

Adjourn Energy Committee Meeting 7:47

DD moved, all approved

website content
solar array