

**TOWN OF UNDERHILL  
ENERGY COMMITTEE  
Underhill Town Hall  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, Dec 13, 2017**

Meeting called to Order 6:35 pm

Quorum established: Underhill Energy Committee (UEC) members in attendance: Peter Bennett (PB), Dwight DeCoster (DD), Ruth Julianelle (RJ), Jerry Adams (JA), Michael Oman (MO), Tom Moore (TM)

Also attending: Steve Webster (SW) former UEC member, as consultant to UEC on solar

Adjustments to Agenda

Agreed to discuss Button Up program first.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Reviewed/Approved Minutes from Nov 8, 2017

No changes; motion by MO to approve; passed unanimously

Review of Button Up Project

DD reported that the Button Up Project in Underhill was successfully underway: the first event is scheduled for Dec 14 with a forum on approaches to home insulation presented by expert Dave Keefe from Efficiency Vermont. An event with the Boy Scouts has been postponed.

DD expressed an interest in having the UEC presenting forums on different energy topics at regular intervals during the year. The Committee expressed strong support for this idea.

Update on Streetlights

PB reported that the streetlight conversion was mostly complete and that town residents who asked for adjustments to lights near their homes had or would be accommodated.

Discussion of Status of Town energy plan

MO characterized our current efforts as waiting for more input on the regional plan. Noted that most our comments and questions sent to CCRPC had not been answered as yet. Until such time, energy committee can continue to look at renewable energy siting preferences and Underhill plans and capability for reducing energy.

Proposal to compare notes with Jericho Energy Task Force at some point was agreed upon. MO will mention to Phyl Newbeck.

MO updated the UEC on Alternative Transportation Committee saying that little work had been done at this point but he would keep the UC informed.

#### Discussed Solar Landfill Proposal by Green Lantern Development (GLG)

PB reported that he has been informed that the Select Board is not required to have competitive bids but it is apparent that they want to know that the terms in this proposal are in line with similar projects from other vendors.

SW has talked to a few other developers and reports that the size of this proposed array is too small to be attractive to many of them. Another issue raised by developers pertains to problems related to grid capacity. It was proposed that we run some of these issues by GLG for their comments.

JA reported that the fall tests of the key monitoring well in the landfill show little change but are in line with tests from a year ago suggesting that for some reason the spring 2017 results were inaccurate. The UEC agreed that these results should be passed on to the Conservation Commission (CC).

PB reported on the results of three UEC members meeting with the CC. We came away concluding their main concerns include:

- aesthetic
- impact on wildlife
- possible pollution resulting from a solar array on the cap
- liability exposure

We have asked the CC to investigate the impact on wildlife issue as we are satisfied that it would be minimal.

RJ reported that she has talked to the Town of Cambridge who has gone ahead on a landfill array with GLG. They stated that their experience has been very good. RJ plans to talk to some other towns as well.

TM made a motion for the Chair to recommend to the SB they move ahead with the Green Lantern Group's proposal for a solar array on the landfill. The motion passed unanimously.

The UEC reviewed the possibility and benefits from replacing the bulk of heating by propane to a heat pump(s). PB reported that a quick analysis of the numbers suggest substantial cost savings from such an installation. He asked that someone else do the same analysis to confirm his numbers. The information we need includes:

1. how does the garage currently condition (i.e. heat, air exchange, ac) its air?
2. is heat provided entirely by propane or some electric resistance heat as well?
3. how much do they spend on propane? how many gallons are consumed?
4. are additional insulation projects planned?
5. what makes sense in terms of heat pump capacity/configuration?
6. what is cost of system, installed?
7. should we get a heat pump installer to look at the garage and give us a proposal?

### Committee Operations

PB asked that for the year going forward that committee members think about where the UEC should focus.

He noted that the UEC had asked for and got \$1000 budget and to keep in mind productive uses.

Finally, he suggested that the UEC mission statement be updated and that this could be discussed in the next meeting

### Next regularly scheduled meeting – Jan 10, 2018

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by

Peter Bennett