

TOWN OF UNDERHILL
Energy Committee Minutes FINAL
Wednesday, Nov 14, 2018

Meeting called to Order 6:30 p.m.

Quorum established: Underhill Energy Committee (UEC) members in attendance: Peter Bennett (PB), Jerry Adams (JA), Michael Oman (MO), Steve Webster (SW), Ruth Julianelle (RJ), Nicole Bourassa (NB) and Dwight DeCoster (DD)

No adjustments to Agenda

Public Comments – none

Reviewed Minutes from October 10, 2018

No changes; motion to approve by DD, passed unanimously

Gravel Pit Solar Array Update

PB reported that the Selectboard (SB) signed an option to give Green Lantern Group (GLG) the right to proceed with analyzing the site.

A preferred site issue has come up which requires that the Select Board (SB), Planning Commission (PC), and CCRPC designate the gravel pit–turned categorical disposal site a preferred site for net metering purposes allowing a higher financial return from kWh production. Vt state law prescribes this process. SB has already signed off on this. Sam Carlson, GLG, does not anticipate problems. He will be accompanied by UEC members will talk to PC at their 11-15-18 meeting.

The Committee discussed the solar waste issue i.e. what happens to solar panels when system is decommissioned. We agreed that although there is no large-scale recycling procedure at present, there is every reason to believe that such facilities will be running in the future because of the likely value of these materials. The IRENA web site offers a good statement of possibilities in this area.

<https://www.irena.org/publications/2016/Jun/End-of-life-management-Solar-Photovoltaic-Panels>

Meeting with Planning Commission

PB explained that UEC members would meet with the PC to review UEC activities and review progress on implementation goals spelled out in the Underhill Town Plan dated 2015. Brief discussion of same was carried out by members.

Button Up Campaign Update

DD reviewed opening meeting of BU program: good turnout and interest.

He discussed planned follow-on energy workshops and handed out a schedule of topics to be presented on the second Thursday of each month. The next one would deal with financing resources for efficiency projects by homeowners noting that several organizations who offer these have agreed to attend.

Underhill Energy Committee web site

Discussed the Open Meeting law implications of having a separate web site. Per VLCT e-mail suggestions, we agreed to get SB go-ahead.

Discussed content for web site. First would be backup information for each of the energy workshops held. Members agreed to consider outlining/writing up various topics for the web site.

Facebook (FB) page status

PB asked whether members had seen the PBS Frontline show on Facebook (the company) and whether we should take a second look at whether we should have a FB page. Discussed the upside (reaching people regarding workshops, etc). Consensus was that we are unsure whether UEC Facebook page gains us much in this regard. We agreed to discuss further.

Other topics

Committee agreed that we should look at hybrid/electric vehicle promotion but working with the Alternative Transportation of which MO is a member. DD suggested that the UEC could plan for an electric vehicle forum to be held in better weather.

Also agreed that viable battery storage arrangements for residential solar systems were not at a point where we should promote them. NB agreed to outline this area for us to look at next time.

Committee Operations

Next regularly scheduled meeting – December 12, 2018

On motion by DD, Energy Committee Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by Peter Bennett