

TOWN OF UNDERHILL
Energy Committee Minutes Draft
Wednesday, December 12, 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 Nov 14, 2018

Minor changes suggested; motion to approve corrected minutes by RJ, passed unanimously

Gravel Pit Solar Array Update

PB listed five steps taken by Green Lantern Group (GLG), the developer

1. approval of preferred site designation by SB, Planning Commission and CCRPC
2. environmental approval by State
3. report from surveyors regarding possible required tree cutting (all on town land)
4. information on categorical dumping on property
5. review of aesthetic assessment by consulting group

Meeting with Planning Commission (PC)

PB, SW, RJ, and MO attended meeting with PC to review UEC activities and review progress on implementation goals spelled out in the Underhill Town Plan dated 2015. Discussion went well.

UEC members reviewed energy questions suggested by PC for a survey to be undertaken to gain Underhill resident input and help the PC in the 2020 rewrite of the town plan. The PC is looking for the inclusion of “controversial” topics.

UEC members were concerned about both content and presentation of the questions. Many thought that they were presented with no context. Several agreed that this was a good idea so long as there was no leading the interviewee.

UEC members agreed to take a detailed look at what questions made sense and how to present them. PB asked all members to take a cut at this for discussion in the next meeting.

VECAN Meeting

SW reported on VECAN meeting which he attended.

Button Up (BU) Campaign Update

DD reviewed progress since the first BU program: good turnout and interest. He reported that 15 Underhill residents had signed up for the walk-through part of the program.

He discussed the scheduled follow-on workshop dealing with financing resources for efficiency projects by homeowners noting that several organizations who offer these have agreed to attend.

Underhill Energy Committee web site

SW reported he had not yet spoken to the SB regarding the Open Meeting law implications and steps suggested by VLCT to meet the implied requirements. SW and PB will meet with the SB to discuss this.

Discussed content for web site. First would be backup information for each of the energy workshops held and DD agreed to give the Committee various web sites whose content would be good background information for each forum topic.

Members agreed to consider outlining/writing up various topics for the web site.

Facebook (FB) page status

Despite very negative exposé of FB by both Frontline and the New York times, Committee decided to leave the UEC FB page intact but not rely on it as our principal means of communication to the community.

Other topics

NB and SW presented their impressions of the Climate Reality Project and the possibility of sponsoring a presentation to Underhill/Jericho residents. Both feel it is a inspiring program and that we could use a larger venue hoping to attract more attendees. They agreed to look into this.

Committee Operations

Next regularly scheduled meeting – January 9, 2019.

On motion by SW, meeting Adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by Peter Bennett