

**TOWN OF UNDERHILL ENERGY COMMITTEE  
FINAL MINUTES  
Virtual Meeting by GoTo Meeting  
5:00PM Wednesday August 12, 2020**

**In Attendance:** Peter Bennett (PB), Dwight Decoster (DD), Ruth Julianelle (RJ), Ravi Parikh (RP), Steve Webster (SW), Nicole Bourassa (NB)

Member Emeritus: Gerry Adams (GA)

Guest: Michael Mellott

**5:07 p.m. Meeting called to order**

Meeting Guidelines – Rules of Procedure for Virtual Meeting

No public participants

Adjustments to Agenda- none

**Public comment period**

N/A

**Review/approve minutes from June 10, 2020 with changes**

RJ so moved, all approved

**Updates on projects**

Solar array

- Trees have been cut as requested by Green Lantern (GL)
- GL just waiting for GMP to make the interconnection; GMP is a bit backed up
- NB suggested a launch party, all think this is a good idea

Pre-audit project

1. Infrared camera has been purchased; **ACTION: DD to pick up at town hall**
2. Blower Door
  - PB asks if realistic to go through with this RE: Covid-19
  - DD shared update from his own work, that there is some reluctance out there with people having him/his crew in their home
  - SW will not go into people's homes until virus is resolved
  - PB says we should forgo this for now; \$\$ money is in budget until next July; all agree
  - PB suggests we keep checking in every month on this

Town hall (Michael Mellott joined the meeting, he is a member of Town Hall Group)

1. PB reviewed the presentation made by the "Town Hall Group" (THG) regarding boiler issues to Select Board (SB).
  - THG has decided that the boiler issue needs to be separate from other great room issues.

- Buried oil tank is a ticking time bomb; there is no record of what happened/when; GA says the tank has been registered with the state, but critical to get out of the ground; SB has agreed that something needs to be done about the oil tank
  - Latest suggestion of above ground tank with kerosene/winter mix  
PB says we shouldn't dismiss this--many folks use a winter mix  
DD says could be short-term solution, but efficiency of LP and oil mix is 10-12% difference...LP would be better option if we do not go the heat pump route. NB says need to make sure we keep this only as a short-term solution, focus is longer. SW echoed, and commented that the way it has been written up is fine but need to focus on the long-term goal of getting off fossil fuels.
  - PB to do cost analysis on fuel costs per above
2. NB asked about ground source vs air source heat pumps. Ground source heat pump has its challenges that have been reviewed by MO and others. PB et al. explained better efficiency of ground source in very cold temps. SW says worth going with a short-term solution to buy us time to further explore ground source heat pump.
  3. NB asked (again) about insulation of town hall. PB reminded of 2009 energy audit and the success of insulation results etc. RJ asked about status of windows--replaced? PB says they were sealed and indoor storm windows were installed. NB asked about removing storm windows seasonally. PB says storage at town hall is a problem

DD says there is a spot for the storage of these storm windows. SW says we've got to keep giving ideas of how to stop using oil and electricity--i.e. windows could have been opened up a few days in advance of voting day to air out/cool off. PB says THG has taken the heat pumps off the table for cooling in great room. PB wants us to look at the windows for better use--take advantage of the storage spot DD had identified during primary voting.

#### Web site

1. SW has some content. PB says it looks great so far, RJ says once ready, every time something is added put notice out on FPF. SW says we need more content--blurb and a link--and he can get it up in less than a minute. RJ says for example Drive Electric VT website **ACTION: PB will work on this; RJ to help**
2. SW says once we go public, keep updating dating information
3. PB asks about organizing by topic?
4. DD prefers taking an approach of DIY options and professional options

### Individual member efforts

1. ACTION: NB to review where solar is at right now→ boiled-down up-to-date solar information for people
2. DD has been working with Becca White on Button up programs...they may work together to do what used to be done in-person, but as a ZOOM meeting--i.e. weatherization programs, etc.  
ACTION: DD to write up a blurb
3. PB acknowledges the lighting info RP has sent to group for follow up
4. GA asks about the ground source HP and how big it is going to have to be; no idea how hard the oil boiler is working, therefore no idea how big HP must be. In the past has put on an “hour” metric device...but need a graph machine. SW asked if efficiency VT has some kind of data-logger that could do this? RP says maybe; concern about stepping on local toes/contractors. SW says can Town Hall Group look into? PB says it will come back to us as a committee and maybe way to go is to do actual monitoring.
5. NB says we need to use the tools to get the info we need to make the best decisions possible...not worry about stepping on toes; RP agrees, but it is a fine line Efficiency VT walks as its work supports contractors
6. Heat Pump opportunities? PB asks should we promote? How to promote? Use DD’s ZOOM meetings? SW says yes. PB says it is about education, so yes

### **Committee operations**

1. Best way to work with town government  
PB shared we have excellent new Town Administrator→  
PB says there are challenges on how we best work with the town - SB is weighed down with work  
Use Town Admin as liaison with SB; interact with SB only when needed
2. Continue virtual meetings
3. Next meeting – September 9, 2020

### **6:08: Meeting Adjourned**

SW so moved, all in favor