

## **TOWN OF UNDERHILL ENERGY COMMITTEE (UEC)**

**Wednesday, April 12, 2017**

### **Meeting Minutes - Draft**

Present: Peter Bennett (PB), Jerry Adams (JA), Tom Moore (TM), April Desclos (AD), Michael Oman (MO), Dwight DeCoster (DD)

Also present, Peter Duval

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Quorum established.

Welcomed new members Dwight DeCoster and Michael Oman

Explanation of our minutes taking procedure: no permanent secretary, responsibility is passed around among members; PB agreed to take minutes this session, AD in the May meeting

Brief discussion of the Open Meeting law as we understand it based on VLCT documents: must have quorum to be subject to them; e-mails conveying straight information or scheduling not a violation, but no discussions via group e-mail (poorly defined.)

#### Adjustments to Agenda:

No adjustments

#### Public comments

Mr. Duval read from a transcript of the Feb 8 meeting to substantiate his view of what the motion regarding talking to the Selectboard (SB) re street light options was. His view was duly noted.

#### Review of March 8 Minutes

Approved unanimously

### **Reviewed on-going projects**

#### Rt 15 bus

Michael Oman reported the following:

- \* The SB has agreed to allow him to pursue the bus service issue on their behalf, although without any formal authority.
- \* An ad hoc group has coalesced consisting of a few people from the 3 affected communities (Underhill, Cambridge and Jericho)
- \* He attended a GMT Board meeting at which he made the group's efforts known. The Board was generally supportive of finding ways to continue the service.
- \* He reported that he is up to speed on SurveyMonkey and is doing a survey to assess issues and conditions related to the service and ridership on the bus route; have received a little over 100 responses, many from Underhill. FPF has supported his efforts to interact with all 3 towns.
- \* In addition to the \$5k restored at Underhill Town meeting, Jericho has fully funded its share of the coming year \$14k. Cambridge is bringing the funding question to the SB where they will consider also fully funding an additional year of service. GMT thought it

could be helpful if Underhill could enhance its contribution at least slightly in light of the other towns' responses.

\*At the conclusion of the survey, he will compile the results as well as information from the other communities and whatever analysis may be apparent and bring this to the EC for its review and, hopefully transmittal to the SB and on to GMT for action.

It was agreed that MO and PB would meet with the SB to update them.

Committee briefly discussed possible use of surveys for other data gathering.

#### Web Site plans

AD outlined steps to move forward on plans for web site. UEC will review and decide on format and initial content. Then later in the year we will submit a plan for web site development as a project for a student at the Rubenstein School at UVM, working with them to accomplish it. Favored web site format might be similar to the Sustainable Williston web site format. AD will pursue.

Motion was made to take this approach and was approved by the committee.

#### Possible JETF joint projects

It was agreed that collaborations on the type of presentations that JETF is good at identifying and setting up make sense. NB has had discussions with JETF about joint publicity efforts. TM stated an interest in establishing a better line of communications on this topic and will take the lead with NB in pursuing joint presentations.

#### **Explored possible new projects/activities**

##### Reviewed Energy chapter in Town plan to help identify appropriate EC activities

Noted that technically this not the UEC's plan but the town's.

Committee looked at Goals and Policies

##### Town Infrastructure

There are town infrastructure issues that come up where the UEC is not consulted. JA reminded us of several. DD pointed out that we should be made aware of all of these to allow us to determine whether our involvement is warranted.

Also discussed involving UEC more tightly with town through capital budget/plan and smooth EC/SB collaboration; PB will get Capital Budget info.

The Capital Budget process also involves Planning Commission (PC): PB will discuss with PC and Zoning/Planning Administrator

### Efficiency projects

Discussed prior involvement in Home Energy Performance Challenge.

JA reviewed some of the problems: doing pre-audits is difficult, requires trained people, takes a lot of time.

DD suggested we aim towards educating residents on home energy efficiency issues and look for ways to give them enough info to encourage them getting a bona-fide energy audit. He agreed to take a look at how we might do this.

### Other involvement with Town Plan

Agreed that we should get back in the renewables siting process; TM pointed out that in Underhill this translates to solar siting; Committee approved PB to reconnect with the PC and Z&P Administrator to re-start this process

### **Committee Operations**

Committee re-approved Rules of Procedure with a few small changes to be made by PB and run by the members for final approval next meeting.

Re-election of Chair, Vice Chair: Tom Moore was re-elected as Vice Chair; Peter Bennett as Chair

Conflict of interest form was passed out and signed by members

On motion by TM, meeting was Adjourned at 8 pm

Submitted by Peter Bennett

Approved by Committee 5-10-17

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter T. Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chair, Underhill Energy Committee