

Meeting Minutes 20160112

Town of Underhill  
Energy Committee  
12 January 2016

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Jerry Adams, Pete Bennett, Peter Duval, Chris Miller and Tom Moore in attendance, the regular meeting was called to order at 6:40pm in the Town Hall Kitchen, with Chris in the chair and Peter D. recording minutes as secretary.

Guest: April Desclos

Agenda

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Town Report  
Membership  
Project Outlook

Public Comment

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None

Minutes

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MOTION

Pete B. MOVED, and Tom SECONDED, to accept the minutes of 08 December 2015 as submitted. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6:41

Town Report

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Chris described edits to the report based on suggestions from committee members. There was discussion of whether post office insulation project was completed in 2015. A reported vote on street lighting was deleted. The report notes that we disagree with CCRPC about greenhouse gas emissions from biomass burning. The start year of the committee was corrected to 2008.

Chris said that he would include Pete B.'s suggestions for a remark on solar siting. Pete B. said that it is a current issue. Peter D. suggested that the report include a list of emerging issues, including street lighting and health effects of lighting.

Chris preferred to focus the report to past activities. Discussion continued about how much committee activity actually happened with respect to solar siting. Jerry asked about the statewide working group on solar siting. Pete B. said that it has been meeting and he anticipates that the legislature will take up the issue again this session.

Peter D. asked that the report not indicate a commitment to the street lighting project as it had not been voted on and only discussed at one meeting. Chris said that there was consensus in support of the project and so it moved forward. Tom suggested removing "agreed", and Pete B. suggested inserting "consider", in the section on street lighting. Peter D. felt that these better reflected the minutes for the meeting, which had an informational tone. Discussion ensued. Chris said that the committee did ask Bob Murphy to pursue a grant.

Pete B. suggested that the section remain as written and that the committee agree to revisit the issue. Chris said that he would put the item on the agenda of the next meeting and that the committee is not committed to the project and could stop it at a later date. Tom asked if the committee had enough information to discuss the issue and asked how many streetlights are in Underhill. Jerry reported 14 between Poker Hill and the Town Hall.

Tom asked if the garage lighting T5s were mentioned in the report.

7:03

#### MOTION

Pete B. MOVED, and Chris SECONDED to accept the report as presented, with Chris to make the following changes:

- \* An offer to engage the planning commission on issues of solar siting.

- \* Thanks to Steve Webster for all of his work.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### Membership

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Chris welcomed April to the meeting. She asked the members to introduce themselves. Tom is a high-performance building contractor. He mentioned that all of the members had done advanced energy projects. April described herself, an environmental policy and law graduate from Vermont Law School, with experience in air quality. She works at Vermont Energy Investment Corporation. Pete B. is an engineer and management consultant, and is on the board at the Energy Co-op. Jerry is a mechanical engineer, has updated all of the systems in his home, and he has been in town government for a long time. Peter D. has a first generation Honda Insight, used to work on energy project development, and is a computer scientist.

Discussion of many topics ensued. There was broad agreement that April

would be an excellent addition to the committee. The administrative steps for April's appointment to the committee were outlined.

Pete B. mentioned Beth Sachs's appearance on Vermont PBS Connect:  
<http://vermontpbs.org/show/21408/118>

## Project Outlook

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Chris described his desire for annual project outlook that included all of the projects and topics that could be pursued and selected items for action that matched the committee's capacity and interest. He felt that it could be a dynamic list, revisited whenever appropriate, and that it would aid in organizing the committee's efforts. As an example, he offered last year's absence from the Harvest Market and the missed alternative of parking the Capstone weatherization trailer in the same spot. Having a project outlook would help to plan activities. The street lighting program being fully subscribed for 2015 is another example of where timing is significant.

Tom mentioned that some of our events were well attended and some were not. He would like to prioritize projects for impact and work on improving advertising. Discussion of different past projects ensued. Jerry liked the energy assessments/visits.

Peter D. asked if there would two lists, one for brainstormed ideas, and one for active/planned projects. Chris agreed and said that he would like to start by asking each member to bring their two best ideas to the next meeting. He said that he wants to deliberately plan not to pursue some things in order that the active projects get the attention they need and move forward.

April asked about past projects. Peter D. suggested that reviewing past project performance could be one of the future projects. Chris said that the committee should not feel constrained during the brainstorming. Pete B. suggested looking at the committee mission statement for guidance and listed:

- 1) Town owned projects
- 2) Education
- 3) Projects to benefit residents (group solar, for example)

Tom suggested compiling all of the annual reports to review what the committee has accomplished. He mentioned rocket stoves, pizza box solar cookers, etc. Chris said he would contact the town administrator to request digital versions of the past town reports.

Discussion about how to proceed ensued. Peter D. asked members to post any information to the google group in order to keep the information public.

Pete B. suggested looking for opportunities to collaborate with the

Jericho Energy Task Force, and revisiting past issues, such as Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE). Chris would like to look at what other energy committees are doing. Discussion of PACE ensued.

7:53

Member Items, Correspondence, Announcements

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Peter D. said that he regretted labeling VEIC “despicable” with respect to street lighting. Bringing attention to this issue was intentional, but he did not anticipate that using a corporate target would bring about distress. He feels the evidence about the health effects of artificial light is mounting, but still regrets his remark. He mentioned Philips’s School Vision lighting system, designed to affect mood and attention, as an example of how lighting can affect humans.

<http://www.lighting.philips.com/main/systems/packaged-offerings/office-and-industry/schoolvision.html>

He explained that LEDs emit a narrow band of blue light that gives the illusion of a full color spectrum, but also happens to stimulate non-vision light receptors in the eye. April asked how street lighting relates. Peter D. said that the street lights cannot be turned off and, like school lighting, are public, so require extra review and caution.

ADJOURNMENT

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On a MOTION by Tom, SECONDED by Pete B., the meeting was UNANIMOUSLY adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Duval, Secretary

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Chris Miller, Chair