

**Town of Underhill Energy Committee**

Wednesday, January 11, 2017 6:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Quorum established. Underhill Energy UEC (UEC) members in attendance: Peter Bennett (PB), Tom Moore (TM), April Desclos (AD), Jerry Adams (JA), Nicole Bourassa (NB)

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm, with AD recording minutes.

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

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Public Comment Period

No public comments.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2017 minutes: unanimously approved

Underhill Energy Committee 2016 Annual Report

Prior to the meeting, Peter circulated a draft of the 2016 annual report to Committee members through email. April requested the opportunity to email feedback on the draft by 1/12.

MOTION: Peter moved to approve the annual report, subject to additional edits made by the Chairperson on 1/12. Motion unanimously approved.

Preparation for Meeting with Jericho Energy Task Force (JETF)

In preparation for JETF's arrival for a joint meeting at 7:15 pm, UEC members discussed the format of meetings with JETF (adherence to an agenda versus a flexible format) and the ways UEC and JETF could work together. Tom suggested that the two groups could share event costs. Peter mentioned that advertising events in both towns could increase participation. He also said that UEC could provide a channel for JETF to reach Underhill residents for JETF's events, such as movies.

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*7:15 pm: Joint Meeting of the Underhill Energy Committee and Jericho Energy Task Force*

JETF members present: Eric Bishop, Donna Freisinger, Larry Lamb, Catherine McMains, Phyl Newbeck, Roger Putzel, Reed Sims

### Role of UEC and JETF

The attendees discussed differences between the two committees' methods of establishment and mission statements. UEC was established by the Underhill Selectboard. JETF purposely organized as a task force so members could come and go and work on specific projects. JETF's mission is focused on four areas - food production, transportation, energy efficiency and alternative energy. UEC's mission statement does not specifically mention food or transportation.

UEC would like to be a source of information for residents and might become less hands on. In the past, UEC has taken a bottom-up approach of asking residents what their needs are, but they are pondering the idea of doing more top-down presentations that focus on areas such as state energy goals. Catherine mentioned the state energy efficiency goals and there was discussion about ways to educate people about them.

JETF would appreciate help coming up with new ideas for committee projects. They also struggle with "preaching to the choir" at their events.

The two committees discussed past activities completed either separately or as a group. Jericho has offered movie series and icicle contests. Two of JETF's most successful events were an event about passive homes and a presentation by a climatologist. JETF events tend to be held in front of the fireplace at DRML, and DRML seems happy to allow events there.

### Transportation: Route 36 Bus

The Town of Underhill might vote to not fund the bus. UEC will try to get more information about the potential cancellation of the route from the Town. Underhill constitutes approximately 30% of the ridership on this route. Tom and April mentioned that it would be useful to find data on the ridership and cost effectiveness of the route. Catherine said that according to Green Mountain Transit, ridership is down in general due to low gas prices. Members of the JETF are actively working to ensure the route continues. JETF will send UEC data on the route, and UEC will decide whether to take a stand.

### Advertisement of Events

The committees discussed ways to advertise events to Underhill events. Possibilities include Underhill FPF, Underhill Town Hall, DRML bulletin board, and Jericho Market bulletin board if the market has one. JETF said FPF has been a useful outlet. Nicole asked whether social media, such as Facebook, could be used.

### UEC's Potential Future Plans

- Button Up presentation with David Keefe, maybe in the fall
- A website with information on energy efficiency (VECAN is helping)
- Choosing energy-related materials for DRML
- A presentation on internet providers; UEC believes internet reliability is an energy issue because many people want to work from home
- Solar installations for the town, maybe a carport
- Changing street lights to LEDs; UEC is proceeding with caution due to LED color temperature

Jericho's Upcoming Events

- Movies: *Just Eat It* on January 26 and *Catching the Sun* (followed by a presentation by Chris West on proper solar panel siting) on March 16; both at DRML at 7:00 pm
- Discussion about carbon pricing with VNRC February 16

Other Ideas

- Discussion about energy issues with our two representatives
- Find ways to promote our committees as a repository of knowledge
- Report on interesting things residents are doing for energy efficiency
- Direct people to experts in the field
- Educational presentations sponsored by both committees, for example on rebate offerings or to educate residents about global warming
- Have a summer or late spring pot luck get-together for those who have renewable energy or have had work done to button up their homes (led by UEC)
- Heat pump workshop (led by JETF)

Next Steps

- UEC agreed to help publicize JETF events that will be held within the next three months. Phyl will send Peter a list of events.
- Each committee will discuss the ideas that came out of the 1/11 joint meeting.
- If a Button Up presentation is held in the fall, both committees will advertise on FPF.
- The committees will keep each other informed about presentations.
- Nicole offered to post Jericho events on the Underhill FPF.

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Next meeting is February 8.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Tom Moore, meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

April Desclos, Member of Town of Underhill Energy Committee

with thanks to Phyl Newbeck, JETF for input to minutes on joint meeting

Approved on: 2-8-2017



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Peter Bennett, Chair