

**TOWN OF UNDERHILL  
Energy Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, Oct 10, 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), and Dwight DeCoster (DD)

No adjustments to Agenda

Public Comments – none

Reviewed Minutes from September 12, 2018

No changes; motion to approve by MO, passed unanimously

Briefly discussed missing UEC minutes from 2009, 2010, 2011. SW agreed to look into.

Gravel Pit Solar Array Update

PB reported that while we were close to having the Selectboard (SB) sign an option to give Green Lantern Group (GLG) the right to proceed with analyzing the site, certain legal issues had arisen due to suggested changes inserted by the town lawyer. Sam Carlson of GLG had minor problems with two of these changes and said that GLG could not accept the third calling for a security deposit to assure decommissioning of the array sometime in the future. He suggested wording in the option that might give the town confidence that decommissioning would take place.

The SB, because they wanted to run these suggestions by legal, could not sign the option at this meeting but expected to resolve these issues by their 10-23 meeting.

In the meantime, Sam Carlson reported that GLG had gone ahead with a request to the state to get their endangered species review underway and completed this fall.

Town Energy Plan Update

There were no changes in the status of this task.

Button Up Heroes campaign Update

DD reported that he had signed up Underhill to participate in the Button Up program – Heroes version - with Efficiency Vt and attended the send off meeting.

The program entails an initial public presentation on Nov 8 where residents will hear how the program can provide a house “walk through” by a BPI certified inspector to determine actions the resident might take to reduce energy use. This is not an energy

audit – e.g. no blower door test – but the inspector will be able to use an infra –red sensor to determine potential energy trouble spots.

A resident can sign up for this, receive a report on the findings, then make the choice to go ahead with mitigation procedures.

The Town is responsible for getting the word out to the community anyway they chose to. Committee discussed possible approaches to this including an article in the Mt Gazette. The UEC can also compose and place one free ad in local media.

The question was raised regarding sources of financing for energy efficiency projects and DD affirmed that he had talked to VSECU and Opportunities Credit Union about taking part in a forum.

#### Transportation issues we might get involved in

MO, who is also a member of the Alternative Transportation Committee, reported that he had taken a look at possible transportation issues where it was appropriate for the UEC to get involved. He pointed out that data from the state indicated that 48% of energy consumed in Underhill was consumed in transportation.

He examined three ways to consider transportation energy issues:

- vehicles
- mode – e.g. single occupancy vehicles, car sharing, bus
- system wide issues: land use, infrastructure, etc

and concluded that one possible opportunity lay in ways to promote local biking and walking and that considering ways to promote both through better paths might be worthwhile. The committee noted that certain of these efforts have been controversial in the past and would require substantial support from the Planning Commission and the SB. The Committee decided to let MO dig into this deeper prior to actually proposing anything to the town.

Another possible transportation area which the committee might look at is the promotion of hybrid and electric vehicles. They decided to discuss this in our next meeting.

DD suggested that the UEC could arrange an electric vehicle forum sometime in the future..

#### Underhill Energy Committee web site

SW reported that he had already put together a mock-up of a UEC web site for the committee to look at. He emphasized that all of us should think about content.

He also noted that we still needed to resolve issues related to the Open Meeting law but would be discussing this with Brian Bigelow the town administrator. PB will explore this question with VLCT.

### Discussion of ways we might work with Vt Electric Co-op (VEC)

PB reported on a conversation with Charlie VanWinkle (CV), Underhill DRB chair, who has just joined the board of the VEC. He expressed an interest in VEC working with local energy committees on issues of mutual interest.

The UEC talked about two areas of interest to us:

- the promotion of residential electricity storage devices
- mapping of three phase power provided by VEC

PB will pass these thoughts on to CV and solicit his thoughts on these and other topics.

### Committee Operations

Next regularly scheduled meeting – November 14, 2018

On motion by DD, Energy Committee Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**Submitted by Peter Bennett**