

**TOWN OF UNDERHILL
ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Underhill Town Hall
6:30 P.M. Wednesday, May 8th,, 2019**

In Attendance:

- Peter Bennett (PB), Nicole Bourassa (NB), Michael Oman (MO), Jerry Adams (JA), Steve Webster (SW)

Meeting Called to Order: 6:37 pm

Public Comment Period

- No public in attendance

Review/Approve Minutes from April 10th, 2019

- Motion by MO, Approved

Project Updates

- EV Charger Station:
 - Discussed efficacy of pursuing next round of State/GMP grants--all agreed it is worth moving forward on
 - Need to determine if next round is Level 2 or Level 3 (Level 3 most likely; not appropriate for school)
 - Discussion about what steps come first: secure Contractor or Grant Application; coordination with Jericho Planning commission & Select Board
 - ACTIONS:
 - MO to keep in touch with Jeff (school facilities manager)
 - JA to email Graham at GMP: need to know what the odds are that next level of funding is more than just level 3; who is handling the grant and who to talk to about it beyond Graham. SW--need to know timeline and confirm
 - MO to follow up with Dave Roberts (Jericho) to find where things stand on this

Solar Project:

- Town seems to be pursuing taking more gravel from site
- Town has a signed option with Green Lantern which must be followed
- There is feedback in community that the solar project is responsible for the tree-cutting that took place at N end of gravel pit
- ACTIONS:
 - PB to address with Select Board--suggest update to community about gravel pit
 - PB,GA and SW to visit site with Carlson--date TBD

2019 and future Activities

- Lively, free-form discussion:
 - PB does anyone believe there is a solution to climate change?
 - JA thinks federal gov't is not going to do anything
 - PB what are we (UEC) doing?
 - PB are things we doing just feel good? Are we really contributing?
 - SW tiny town, tiny state
 - SW what we can do is serve as a model, Vt has good track record
 - MO I believe we are in desperate straits, but have to behave as though things that one does can make a difference...why I am excited about GA EV charger project; transportation is one of biggest problems
 - NB EVs and Heat pumps don't make sense unless the electricity is low/carbon free
 - PB some proposals not adequately based on science--e.g some premises of state energy plan?
 - 350vt. org resolution disagreements (halt of all fossil fuel infrastructure): SW supports; PB does not--b/c of impact on socio-economic differences
 - PB may need transitional stage of using some natural gas while getting to solely clean energy
 - SW skeptical of future role of nuclear power; MO and PB say it can't be ruled out if safety and waste problems solved
 - So what can energy committee can do?
 - PB concentrate on solar, energy storage, weatherization
 - JA grid is a real problem re more solar
 - SW we can focus on a model that can work: solar, storage, EV, weatherization
 - FPF best resource for sharing information? Point people on FPF to our website for "unbiased" information?
 - Must also rely on word of mouth in VT
 - MO create a festival?
- ACTION: help save the world by example as well as benefiting residents
- SW suggests we agree on a series of educational options to focus on; need to inform and motivate

Committee Operations

- Next meeting – June 12, 2019

Motion to adjourn--MO

Adjourned 8:03 PM

Submitted by Nicole Bourassa