

**Middlebury Energy Committee Minutes
Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 9:00 am
Town Offices (small conference room & virtual)**

Attendees: Liv Herdman, Howard Wideltz, Lisa Bernardin, Steve Maier, Dan Rafferty, Bill Cunningham, Lindsey Fuentes-George

Guest: John Barstow, Ben Wagner

Absent: Richard Hopkins, Diane Munroe, Ross Conrad

Meeting called to order at 9:03 am

Reviewed planned meeting agenda Added an item to discuss the plans for HVAC replacement at the Hannaford career center and how the Middlebury Energy Committee could get involved.

Reviewed Minutes. Steve moved to approve, Lindsey seconded, Unanimous approval of unamended minutes.

Reviewing end of year report. Made minor adjustments. Suggested addition of target goal. Howard moved to approve report, Dan seconded. Unanimous approval of report as it existed. Can approve again if more changes are made.

Discussion of retrofits at Hannaford Career Center: Hannaford Career Center is planning on installing 480-Watt panels(!) and replacing the current HVAC system. This is a similar situation to the library, so we have experience in similar buildings. Discussed how the Energy Committee could be involved with this project.

Action: Lisa will reach out and let people know that we have experience helping with HVAC systems and see how they would like us to help. In further discussion John observed that we could also be advocates when/if it goes to bond vote.

Available Funding:

- Should the Energy Committee define projects for which we would seek some of the available funding? Dan reminded us that the ARPA funds are sitting with the state.
- If some of the money is targeted what are the things that we can do with the money. Maybe we can further discuss things with VECAN and see if they can put together a toolkit to support the Energy Committees in this process.
- Bill Cunningham has reached out to efficiency Vermont to set up a discussion with a specialist. There are opportunities for rebates and things through efficiency Vermont.
- There are known amounts of money coming to Middlebury. Dan's "Funding Landscape" document will get added to the Energy Committee document repository which is accessible by everyone.

Action: Liv will reach out to legislators to get a budget outlook. Establish a subcommittee to meet regarding the funding and meet before next full committee meeting.

VECAN conference updates:

- Howard talked about environmental justice pursuits. John mentioned that Energy 2028 is creating some guiding documents on environmental justice. Selectboard is currently working with some consultants on Diversity and Inclusion issues. Let's keep this in the front of our minds as we do our work. Howard suggested this is an area in which the Sunday Night Environmental Group (SNEG) could get involved. Ben said he would take it back to the group for discussion.
- AARP's community walk audits. Is this something we should consider?
- Revolving loan fund at state level. Will any of this money flow down to the municipalities?
- As we increasingly electrify, we need to make sure our grids are resilient.

Action: Ben to see if SNEG is interested in working with the Energy Committee on environmental justice issues.

Other Updates:

- Energy plan discussions, including a subset of Energy Committee members have been meeting to develop an energy plan for the Town of Middlebury. Discussions included developing an Enhanced energy Plan followed by a Comprehensive Energy Plan. This is completely connected to the work that we are doing, so there should be some synergy between the two groups. Comment that the energy planning group is adhoc and needs more official buy in. SNEG could help and participate in development of enhanced energy plan.
- Biodiesel: Need to start planning for the spring.
- SNEG focus areas were mentioned. It is hoped we can also work on transportation.
- Solar project will be online at the end of the month! The town purchased 15% of the array.
- Some traction on micro-hydro at the falls. 1.6 MW is possible...
- Howard thanked everyone for their hard work over the last year and noted a lot of great accomplishments by the committee.

Action: Meet with Public Works Department to discuss expanding the use of biodiesel fuel starting in the Spring

Liv moves to adjourn, Steve seconded. Unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned at 10:30