

# Final

**Middlebury Energy Committee (Virtual and Town Offices (small conference room))  
Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 9:00 am  
Minutes**

**Present:** Ross Conrad, Howard WidELITZ, Richard Hopkins, Dan Rafferty, Diane Munroe, Steve Maier, Bill Cunningham, Liv Herdman

**Absent:** Lindsey Fuentes-George, Mike Roy

**Guests:** John Barstow

**Meeting called to order at 9:00am**

**Review Agenda** Decided to skip public outreach since Mike was not here.

Review minutes for last month: Richard moved to approve minutes. Ross seconded. Unanimously approved.

## **Funding for Facilitation of Energy Plan Development – All Vote**

We were unable to fund the project from FY 2022 money so we need to revisit the vote to use FY2023 funds. Liv moved to approve the funding in the amount of \$1500 for paleBLUe dot to facilitate the development of an Energy Plan proposed to be referred to as a Comprehensive Climate Plan. Richard Hopkins seconded. Unanimously approved. John Barstow mentioned the college being willing to match the funding by the Energy Committee. There was some concern about spending so much of our budget early in the year, but it is possible we can collaborate with other groups (e.g. CEAC) if we need more funding for outreach.

## **Summit Housing Statement**

Steve reported out on the work by the subcommittee and the development of the statement on the housing project. Discussed that a broad policy statement might be more appropriate at this time, rather than including a lot of details on appropriate technology.

The subcommittee will go to the selectboard with a statement such as: “We, as the Energy Committee, would like to engage with Summit to advocate for a carbon neutral development”

Selectboard meeting next Tuesday is where this will be presented.

**Easement for VGS Infrastructure** – Ross informed us that, as a Middlebury resident, he has a petition to bring to a vote on the easement for VGS to provide natural gas to the Old Stone Mill business in town. The purpose of the petition is to bring attention to the expanding fossil fuel

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infrastructure and for the Town's residents to have a say. It is also to request that VGS pay the \$2500 for the costs to cover the easement as opposed to the tax payers.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant Study** – We should review the report with the town officials. The main take away is that all the options provide a good return on the investment, as long as the assumptions for the cost estimates for renovating the wastewater treatment plant are correct and accurate. There is still a question as to how much green house gas emissions would be reduced with this project. Howard will set up a meeting with Tom Murray from VGS to discuss.

**Hannaford Career Center Renovation Project** – Howard and Steve met with the Hannaford Career Center and they shared the notes that Steve wrote from the discussion with us. They have been doing a good job of trying to move away from fossil fuels and they have worked a lot on energy efficiency. There was an action item taken for them to provide an estimate of the reduction in carbon emissions with the renovations. We should follow up and talk with the high school because they will likely be doing a similar renovation soon.

### Updates and other news

- *Field Days* is coming up next month. Can energy committee work a table? Yes! We will get some materials together.
- *Amtrak Platform Solar* – VTrans asked if the solar project was planning to cover the costs for the electricity used by the train platform. The assumption is there will be enough to cover these costs with additional to add to our net metering from the town. There is a company that is willing to do it with no upfront costs.
- *EV charging stations* are not working. There is money from the state for putting stations in. Maddie knows about the funding sources available.
- *Climate Economy Action Center*- no comments

**Adjourn:** Ross made a motion to adjourn at 10:40. Richard seconded, and all approve.