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**Town of Middlebury  
Energy Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 16, 2017**

Present: Ross Conrad, Chris Robbins, Howard WidELITZ, Steve Meier (by phone), Heather Seeley, Hannah Hurlburt (arrived 9:35).

Ross convened the meeting at 8:45 am.

(Note: all votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.)

Minutes: Minutes for July were approved with a technical correction and a note saying that the company Zero by Design is really Zero by Degrees. Motion by Heather, seconded by Howard.

Town Energy Efficiency Projects: Members reported on their follow-up research. Heather and Howard contacted companies that do energy audits. Heather spoke with John Haehnel of Zero by Degrees (not Zero by Design) and he said he needed more information about the Public Works building before giving an estimate for an energy audit. Howard contacted Building Energy, who estimated \$3,000 - \$3,300 for audits of both the Public Works and Police Dept. buildings. That is just a ballpark estimate. At this time of year they are pulling back from doing audits and are doing more weatherization, so it may take a while before we can get the audits done.

Ross looked into grants for electric carts for the Park and Rec Dept., but didn't find any. He wondered if the college would be interested in selling one of their old ones. We also noted that there are many used ones for sale on Craig's List.

Chris visited the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and talked with superintendent Bob Wells. In their process buildings, they have high-pressure sodium lights with ballasts that are going bad, and instead of replacing the expensive ballasts, they are interested in installing LED lights. Bob was checking on types of lights and prices, but has not reported back yet. The WWTP had an energy audit done in 2014 and has accomplished many of the items suggested. This lighting was not one of the items in the audit, but we could calculate the payback period based on the wattage and the hours of use.

We discussed doing energy audits and one more project if that would fit into the \$10,000 budget. It looks as if the actual work on the Public Works and Police buildings might have to wait till next year. The \$10,000 is for fiscal 18, which ends June 30, 2018. Heather is going to ask Kathleen if the money has to be spent within the fiscal year or if it could roll over; also, would we have to get bids for projects or is there a minimum amount below which we would not need bids.

By-laws: Steve made some requested changes to the by-laws, including cleaning up some confusing language and taking out a section requiring a subcommittee. On a motion by Chris, seconded by Heather, we voted to submit the by-laws to the Select Board.

Hannah joined the meeting.

Outreach: Hannah has been thinking about outreach to young people, including students in school and people in their 20s and 30s. The purpose would be to inspire a lifestyle shift and get people talking about energy saving. She would like to train teachers and to use small models of houses that show the effects of insulation and crack sealing. Also, she likes the idea of competitive games and fun events. We brainstormed about benefit concerts (maybe with no electric amplification), booths, an annual festival or picnic, once/month postings on Front Porch Forum, and linking recycled clothing with Button-up day

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(Nov. 12 this year). In the past, we have had a booth at Town Meeting and an electric car and bike demo, among other things.

Chris encouraged everyone on the committee to go on the Community Energy Dashboard and enter their actions or stories. Steve said there is now a link to the dashboard from the Energy Committee website. He made some other changes to the web site as suggested by members.

Member concerns: Ross noted that UVM will be the site of Catalysts of the Climate Economy, a three-day national innovation summit on September 6-8. Steve said he is already signed up and helping to plan a tour of Addison County as part of the meeting. Ross and Chris said they would probably be available to attend. The cost is \$200 per person, which could be reimbursed from the committee's budget. Heather moved and Howard seconded a motion to allow that expenditure. Motion approved. Steve also mentioned a Sept. 18 forum and community dinner to kick off the climate economy project in Middlebury.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 on a motion by Heather, seconded by Chris. Next meeting will be September 20 at 8:45 am.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Robbins