

Town of Middlebury
Energy Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday 9/20/17

Present: Chris Robbins, **Van Barth**, Heather Seeley, Ross Conrad, Howard Widelitz, Steve Meier, Hannah Hurlburt.

Meeting called to order by Ross 8:45 am

(Note: all votes are unanimous unless otherwise noted, with the exception of Van who abstained from all voting)

Minutes: The agenda for the meeting was reviewed and no changes were made. Ross motioned to approve the agenda, Howard seconded.

Minutes from the August meeting were reviewed and approved with a correction spelling out Waste Water Treatment Plant the first time it was used. Ross motioned to approve the minutes from last meeting seconded by Heather.

Howard explained overall intentions of committee to Van.

Town Energy Efficiency Projects:

We are still in a holding pattern regarding the lighting project proposal for the Waste Water Treatment Plant because Heather is still waiting to hear back from Peck electric regarding getting an estimate, and we have not yet received a response from Adams Electric. Chris suggested a follow up with Bob to see if we can find out who performed the energy audit in 2014 and what the results were. It was suggested that outfitting the WWTP with LEDs than replace what they have now.

Concern was expressed regarding the potential that work on public works and or the police building might have to wait until next year because our budget ends on fiscal year 18. The question was raised as to whether our budget rolls over if we don't spend it all. We discussed the possibility that we might need to use the budget to do audits and ask for another chunk of the budget to do projects next year. A suggestion was made that money for efficiency updates might be able to come out of the capital improvements budget as there is more money in the budget because of an increase in charge for people dropping waste. It was suggested that it might be helpful

also if department heads and contractors attended a meeting to discuss budget and estimates.

We need to make a decision regarding whether Building Energy or Zero By Degrees will perform the energy audits. When comparing BE to ZBD we need to compare the same services and at this point we need clarification as to what each audit includes. We want a written proposal identifying the cost the following three services: a walkthrough, a blower door test, and an infra test for the following buildings: Warming Hut/Teen Center, Middlebury Police Department and, the Public Works building. Heather will be following up with ZBD, Howard with BE and Chris with Bob Wells of WWTP.

Ross suggested that we make a decision at next meeting with what were going to do regarding going forward for the 10000

Ross contacted college regarding an Electric Vehicle for parks and rec, Middlebury does not offer Electric Vehicles.

VOTING ON THE WARNED BYLAW CHANGES:

Steve makes motion to approve the changes to bylaws seconded by Howard.

OUTREACH:

As an effort to reach out to young people and families we will be applying for sponsorship from Efficiency Vermont to promote the Button Up Day Campaign. We intend to use button up day, 11/12, to promote the Button Up challenge in Mary Hogan. We will provide an interactive presentation intended to educate students about what energy is and how to conserve it. Students will have to fill out a questionnaire about energy use and waste production at home, they will identify the most utilized lights at home, and they will be given LED bulbs to which they will use to replace the old lights. We will implement a challenge where they can earn more lights depending on how much energy was conserved.

A brainstorm of ideas regarding other means of outreach included but were not limited to reaching out to applicable college student groups to structure an approach to educate and influence college aged students, and creating an ordinance to elimination plastic bags throughout the town. Heather volunteered to format a flyer containing a list of environmentally positive actions that would ring with your average person who is not as conscious

MEMBER CONCERNS:

Steve pointed out that the town covered expense for flyers mailed for Middlebury Climate Economy Model. That money needs to come out of the budget, next month we will vote on whether it comes out of the MEC budget.

We had a discussion surrounding the MCEM conference held on 9/18. We thought that if the conferences included childcare more people might attend. We also considered that it would be a great opportunity to do a waste watch challenge during the dinner portion.

10:25 Ross motioned to adjourn, Howard second. Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted, Hannah Hurlburt