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**Town of Middlebury  
Energy Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 15, 2018**

Present: Ross Conrad, Chris Robbins, Howard WidELITZ, Lindsay Fuentes-George. Absent: Steve Maier, John Snyder-White, Larry Bailey, Van Barth. Guests: Dan Werner, Dana Hart.

Ross convened the meeting at 8:50 am. The agenda was approved on a motion by Howard, seconded by Chris. (Note: all votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.)

Minutes: Minutes from June were tabled. Minutes from July were approved with a minor wording change.

Library: Dan Werner, Public Works planning director, and Dana Hart, library director, came to get our input on heating and cooling systems in the library. We had offered to help town departments to improve energy efficiency and reduce fossil fuel use.

The library has two sections: one built in 1923 and one in 1988. The older part has steam heat and the newer part has hydronic (hot water) heat. One boiler supplies both systems; however it is not very efficient. The boiler is old and regularly leaks when hot parts become cooler and the gaskets loosen. A pool of water forms on the floor and has to be pumped out. Dana said no one has told her it is hazardous, but if it failed there could be major damage to the library. Several related issues affect what can be done in the library:

- Engineering Services has suggested replacing the boiler with two gas boilers, each for one part of the building, and switching from steam to hydronic heat in the 1923 section.
- There are 11 air conditioning units, which were recently upgraded to have larger drainage tubing. They could be replaced with heat pumps that would both heat and cool; however, a backup heating system would still be needed, and its size would depend on the functioning of the heat pumps.
- The newer part of the library may be torn down and replaced by new construction, as recommended by the library board last year; however, the process of planning for the future has been restarted and we cannot assume that will happen.
- There is not good data about heat loss, since no energy audit has been done (at least not recently).

Dan said they would like to find a consultant who can evaluate what can work, what it costs, and what particular units would be recommended. After some discussion, the group thought that an energy audit would be a first step – possibly using money that was set aside for a new boiler. Ross will contact Zero by Degrees, who did the audits for the Police station and teen center, to see if they can make an estimate for an audit of the library. Howard will contact Jeremy Rathbun at Dubois & King, who does that type of work being requested and is a former energy committee chair. Chris will contact Efficiency Vermont to see if they have recommendations for contractors. Dan and Dana left the meeting.

Town Renewable Energy Policy Proposal: Last week Ross brought the proposal to the infrastructure committee, which recommended it by a vote of 5 to 2. He will bring it to the select board at their next meeting.

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Energy Audit Follow-up: Chris reviewed what Chief Hanley had said about the police station (in July minutes). She met with Dustin Hunt (rec. dept. director) and Zoe Kaslow (teen center director) to discuss their energy audit. They liked the idea of installing a smart thermostat. They said they have money budgeted for new windows in 2022. Their priorities would be 1) thermostat, 2) windows, 3) attic sealing & insulation. There are also miscellaneous air sealing projects such as calking cracks and insulating electrical outlets.

The estimate from Zero by Degrees for the police station multi-use 105 infill (converting the lower part of the conference room windows to walls) was \$7,200; however, a couple of years ago Breadloaf estimated it at \$25,000; therefore without another quote it is hard to know how much that would really cost. Zero by Degrees' estimate for wall-to-roof air sealing was \$6,000. Howard moved and Chris seconded a motion to recommend allocating \$9,000 to the police department for either wall-to-roof air sealing and/or multi-use 105 infill, and up to \$1,000 to the Rec Dept. for a smart thermostat and miscellaneous air sealing projects. Motion passed. The recommendation will be passed on to the select board.

Vermod Demonstration Opportunity: Howard reported that he and John Snyder-White are still working on finding a site for the demo. The dates it could be displayed here are either Oct. 8 – Nov 12 or Nov. 15 – mid-Dec.

Climate Solutions Resolution: Ross passed along a resolution given to him by Chip Mayer. If it receives enough signatures, it could be brought to town meetings in March. It asks the state and town to refuse future fossil fuel infrastructure, easements or agreements and to do more to cut down on energy use. The committee took no official action.

Button-up: Button-up Vermont day is November 12. Chris said she had not been able to find out who was involved in the school program last year, but it seems we don't have the person-power to do that again this year. She offered to organize a smaller effort and proposed putting up several life size Mary Mack mannequins around town at stores, parks, etc. and making handouts for places like hardware stores and MiddNight Stroll. Lindsay said she would check with the National Bank to see if we could put a display in the small window in the ATM lobby. Chris will check with Hannah to see if we can get the materials that are left from last year, and will email Van to see if college students might like to help. Chris moved and Lindsay seconded a motion to promote button-up day using the Mary Mack mascot and handouts, with college student help if possible. Motion passed.

Issues and Concerns: Lindsay is the select board member who signs the check warrants and therefore sees everything that the town spends. She said Laura Asermily asked her to keep track of energy expenditures.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 on a motion by Howard, seconded by Lindsay. Next meeting will be September 19 at 8:45 am.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Robbins