

FINAL

**Town of Middlebury
Energy Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 17, 2018**

Present: Ross Conrad, Chris Robbins, Lindsay Fuentes-George, Van Barth, Steve Maier, Howard Widelitz, John Snyder-White.

Ross convened the meeting at 8:45 am. (Note: all votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.)

Minutes: Meeting Minutes from September were approved as written with Howard abstaining.

Follow up on Climate Resolution: Ross reported that Chip and Jack Mayer had revised their proposed resolution somewhat, and he had forwarded it to the committee. They are hoping we will help get signatures.

John Snyder-White entered at 8:55.

Ilisley Library/Energy Committee Collaboration update: Ross reported that Dana Hart had asked for names of vendors for renewable energy heating options. Ross will get them from Efficiency Vermont. Chris mentioned that the Baptist Church on S. Pleasant St. uses wood pellets.

This topic led to a discussion of the implementation of the town's new renewable energy policy, which the Select Board approved. Ross had heard that some department heads were frustrated with the need to look into other options when they want to convert to natural gas heat. Ross had agreed to meet with Brian Carpenter (SB chair); Lindsay volunteered to attend also.

Energy Upgrades to Teen Center and PD/ Town Renewable Energy Policy Update: The Select Board approved the policy, removing the last part about using renewable energy if the cost is up to a certain percentage more than fossil fuels. Now the question is how to make it happen. Last week's Infrastructure committee was the first time the policy had been put to the test. Chris said many of the agenda items were in some way related to fossil fuels and she had to bring up the policy. (Lindsay was not present at that meeting). For example, the library heating system was on the agenda, the fire and police departments want to convert to natural gas heat, and the rec department wants to purchase a UTV ("gator"). We were unsure when the policy would apply, especially if converting from propane to natural gas using the same equipment. There were also questions about the capital budget, which shows the \$10,000 for energy efficiency in fiscal year 18-19 and in fiscal year 19-20. The police dept. requested \$6,000 for wall to roof air sealing, but it was not taken out of the energy efficiency line item. Howard will check with Chief Hanley about whether he thinks of that as coming out of the PD budget or the energy efficiency budget. Chris will check with the park and rec dept. to see if they plan to install the smart thermostat in this fiscal year. Lindsay will ask Jackie Sullivan how they are budgeting the energy efficiency money and how it gets transferred to the departments it is designated for.

We also discussed re-allocating the savings from these efficiency measures to future energy efficiency budgets. It had seemed like a good idea, but upon further consideration, the group decided it was impractical. However, we would still like to see if the changes make a difference.

Lindsay thought that we should emphasize our role as being helpful. If we could find out in advance what equipment is due to be purchased, perhaps we could research alternatives in advance. Also, members might be able to come to meetings where these issues are on the agenda (infrastructure, public safety, etc).

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Vermod Demonstration Update: Howard and John reported that Pete Schneider is scheduled to move the Vermod demo house here on October 22, and it will be available for viewing from Oct. 23 – Nov. 12. The demo is a self-contained house, but it also promotes heat pumps, solar panels, batteries and other efficiency measures that can be used on other buildings. We discussed how to advertise the demo. Pete Schneider is going to contact the Addie Indie. John will share the info with realtors, home inspectors, etc. Lindsay will announce it at the select board meeting. Ross suggested putting fliers in buses. John said that Neighborworks is having a first-time homebuyer class here, and that might be a good time to mention it.

Button Up Planning Update: Chris showed one of the Mary Mack dresses with the silver buttons, and three drafts for the posters. Members made a few corrections. The posters can be mounted on sandwich boards, which we can borrow from Homeward Bound. The group discussed ideas for locating these, including at the Vermod demo, Shaw's, Hannaford, the Co-op, Martin's, Aubuchon, Paris, r.k. Miles, and downtown. Lindsay said she could not reserve the National Bank window this year, but she reserved it for next year the 1st two weeks of November.

The committee approved spending up to \$500 of our budget on 12 posters and 6 fence posts to hang the dresses on. Moved by Lindsay, seconded by Chris.

Chris said that the Midd Night Stroll will be Dec. 7, and we can have a table next to the bridge. From last year we have light bulbs, handouts, and electrical outlet insulators.

Committee member issues/updates: Lindsay got the data on fuel purchases for the police station from 2016 until now. Van will use that plus data on heating degree days to try to develop an algorithm to measure heating efficiency.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 on a motion by Howard, seconded by John. Next meeting will be November 14 at 8:45 am.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Robbins