

## Seminary Street Housing Project

The Seminary Street project presents an important opportunity to address affordable housing needs in Middlebury and Addison County in ways that also address climate change by creating an affordable fossil-fuel free housing development. Here's why:

- There are urgent housing needs for low- and moderate-income families, both locally and statewide, and green solutions are the affordable way to do so.
- The climate crisis demands that we transition away from burning fossil fuels as soon as possible.
- Experience demonstrates that net-zero, high-efficiency, and low/no carbon designs are not only possible, but affordable. They are also healthier, safer, and more comfortable. Importantly, such buildings have lower operating costs over time, lowering the total cost of ownership while also contributing to efforts to combat climate change.

As established in its bylaws (approved by the Selectboard in 2017), the Energy Committee's mission is "to promote energy savings and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We make sustainable, energy-efficient recommendations to the Municipality; secure funding sources and measure initiatives..." As such, we intend to engage with Summit Properties and with the Town's Development Review Board and Planning Commission by supplying information and to work together in support of clean efficient energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals.

We welcome the Selectboard to also lend its support to these mutual goals.