

Excerpt from Infrastructure Committee Draft Meeting Minutes – August 9, 2018

Ross Conrad – Presentation of Renewable Energy Policy

Ross Conrad, Chair of the Middlebury Energy Committee, said the Town of Middlebury does a pretty good job of looking for the most efficient product when purchasing new items, but this policy is a proposal to “up our game” a bit. He said this policy is to encourage the Town to look at non-fossil-fuel-based appliances and products when purchasing items. He said it asks the Town to look at not just the up-front cost, but the cost of maintenance, upkeep and running costs, and compare the fossil based against the non-fossil based fuel and when possible, purchase the non-fossil based. He is looking for feedback from the Infrastructure Committee before taking it to the Selectboard.

Ramsay had a request to change paragraph 2 to read “Whereas; Middlebury has been moving toward a system of planned expenditures” and delete the rest.

There was more discussion and questions, and Conrad said basically the Energy Committee’s policy is asking whenever the Town begins comparing products, that they consider and get quotes for non-fossil-fuel-based options when they are looking at replacing and updating vehicles and equipment.

Werner said the Town already does this whenever possible, and that Library Director Dana Hart will be asking the Energy Committee’s input when replacing the boiler at the Library.

Wiger-Grohs made a motion for the Infrastructure Committee to support the Energy Committee’s Renewable Energy Policy proposal. Robbins seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor (Seeley, Tenny, Wiger-Grohs, Robbins and Fuentes-George) 2 opposed (Fiske and Baker).