

## Renewable Energy and Sustainability Committee – Town of Yarmouth Meeting Minutes

**Date:** December 3, 2018

**Present:**

Committee Members

Heather Abbott  
Toby Ahrens  
David Ertz  
Paul Faulstich  
Lianne Mitchell  
Scott Sheriff

Town Council Members

April Humphrey  
Richard Plourde

Public

(none)

Town Employees

Nat Tupper

**Votes & Decisions:**

- Heather Abbott volunteered to be the committee chairperson. Unanimously approved. We agreed the chairperson will schedule meetings, lead meetings, create the agenda, and submit agendas to Jen Van Allen.
- Paul Faulstich volunteered to be the secretary. Unanimously approved. We agreed the secretary will take and publish minutes.
- The committee will meet in the community room at 7pm on the second Wednesday of each month

**Commitments made:**

- Lianne will reach out to other towns to ask a representative to attend our February meeting for us to learn what they are doing
- Toby will invite Steve Johnson to attend the January meeting to begin the process of benchmarking what Yarmouth currently does
- Scott will introduce Lianne to Denny Culdette, in Cumberland, as a potential invitee
- Paul will introduce Toby to Bob (LAST NAME) of the Yarmouth Water District
- Richard will introduce David to Kimberly Darling, of the Cumberland/Falmouth energy fair
- David will reach out to Kimberly Darling to express Yarmouth's interest in participating in the energy fair on Jan 27

**Meeting Notes:**

Nat Tupper led the meeting, as this was the committee's first meeting.

1. Discussion of committee expectations and process requirements

- Minutes must indicate:
  - Who was at meetings
  - What was said
  - Any votes
- The town council and press must be notified of any meetings in advance, ideally by at least 1 week
- Agendas are recommended but not required by law.
- The committee may make its own rules regarding what our processes are and what qualifies as a quorum
- Email may be used for simple direct communication, but not for deliberations. When an email thread turns into a discussion, it should be tabled until a public meeting.

## 2. Discussion of other towns with similar committees

- Scarborough
- Falmouth & Cumberland (shared committee)
- Brunswick
- Freeport
- Rockland

## 3. Recent Yarmouth sustainability history:

- There used to be a similar committee called Yarmouth Energy Savers. Their focus was to cut municipal costs through energy savings. Marge Titcomb and Alison Truesdale were members we might call on to learn what they did.
- The town and schools have performance contracts with Honeywell; energy savings more than pay for the cost of the program (by about 12%)
- Town is looking to convert street lamps to LED via a lease payment option, but there are some code/safety issues around the location of some lamps on the poles and distance from various utility lines
- Town's biggest energy consumer is the waste water treatment facility
- Some small municipal solar exists at the high school and town works department

## 4. Some possible committee activities or topics to consider (brainstorming)

- Benchmark what other towns are doing
- Benchmark what Yarmouth is already doing
- Streetlighting LED
- Benchmarking
- Solarize, wind
- Solar farm
- Community power options
- Local code impacts
- Follow up with area towns
- Follow up with town staff
- Energy fair
- EV charging stations
- Plastic bags
- Waste savings
- Parking lot solar array
- Heat pumps
- Vehicles
  - Cars to xfer station vs collection
  - school drop-offs
  - The Breeze
- Electric/Natural Gas school buses
- School bus route policy

## 5. Specific questions we would like to ask others (who to ask)

- How do our town codes/rules encourage or discourage the use of renewable and sustainable energy options? (town planning and codes officials)
- What has your town done to encourage the use of renewable and sustainable energy options? (representatives from other towns' committees)
- What has been done for benchmarking? (town engineer, other towns)
- What did the Yarmouth Energy Savers achieve, what didn't work? (Marge Titcomb, Alison Truesdale)