

Wilmington Energy Committee (WEC) Minutes

Time and Location: October 15, 2024, at 2 East Main Street and on Zoom

Members in attendance and constituting a quorum were: Bob Bois, Jessica Roberts, Gary Carver, Scott Moore, Keith Johnson

Members Absent: Marshall Dix

Others Present: Dan Wells from the Energy Innovation Team at Green Mountain Power, Brad Long the Senior Community Engagement Manager from Efficiency VT, and Uschi Larson UVM intern

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 3:14 PM by Bois. Minutes could not be approved due to lack of members in attendance.
- Bois asked Moore for an update on the Solar Project with a goal of getting it in the next Town Budget; Moore will follow up on the revised estimate.
- Carver led a discussion on a discovered grant (4K), the Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund Grant, and using the grant for the Window Dressers (WD) program. WD is a program Roberts is familiar with in Arlington, and examples were also drawn from its success in Brattleboro and other towns. Julian Leon who spoke at the VEEP Workshop the WEC hosted last month is familiar with WD, a nonprofit program, and Roberts will ask him to advise us on the project should we get the grant. A motion was made by Roberts that the WEC apply for the grant (no match required) with the goal of using it for WD, seconded by Johnson, and passed without dissent.
- Bois invited guest, Uschi Larson, to lead a conversation on the upcoming video she is making at no cost to the town. She plans to create a ten-minute video that is simple to understand and geared toward residents on how to save money, use rebates, find incentives, and reduce their carbon footprint. Guests Dan Wells and Brad Long gave her many ideas to start from and connected with her for continued advisement. Roberts asked about an update on Act 18 (the Affordable Heat Act) which became law on May 24, 2023. Act 18 established the framework for the Public Utility Commission to design a Clean Heat Standard for approval by the Vermont General Assembly in 2025, which many were not familiar with, and she offered to research it and bring in the findings to the next public WEC meeting on Nov. 19.
- Guest Brad Long was then asked to present an opportunity for a return to the Button Up Workshops Wilmington has held in the past focused on educational awareness. The date of Dec 5th was discarded as the preferred location (the Community Room of the Public Safety Facility) was not available. A new date will be researched by Roberts, Moore and Long. Long informed us they had \$100 available in home center (WW) gift cards to spur community attendance. He also said we could get \$100 in marketing supplies from Efficiency VT for advertising and pizza should we desire those. Bob moved we proceed with planning this Button Up Workshop for the residents of Wilmington, Moore seconded, and all were in favor.
- Guest Dan Wells then started with a quiz on items Efficiency VT could help people purchase (electric lawn mowers, cooktops, leaf blowers, chain saws, mini splits and even geothermal systems). He discussed the difference between a rebate and an incentive. He informed us of power wall leases and how incentives could be taken in a check or in bill credit. Some discussion was held on incentives for town service vehicles.
- Bois asked Roberts to give an update on the MERP (Municipal Energy Resilience Program) grant. Roberts said the town was just waiting on the results from the submitted grant (no match). The timeline is as follows so we should hear within a few weeks:

The timeline for the application period has changed to:

~~08/26/24 – 9/27/24 Grant Period~~

~~09/30/24 – 10/18/24 Grant Application Scoring~~

10/21/24 – 10/25/24 Grant Award Notification and grant agreements sent to towns

10/28/24 – 11/29/24 All grant agreements must be executed

- Roberts motioned for adjournment, seconded by Johnson, and passed without dissent at 4:20 PM.

Minutes submitted by Secretary,
Jessica Roberts