

Wilmington Energy Committee (WEC) Minutes

Time and Location: December 17, 2024, at 2 East Main Street (Town Hall)

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

Members Absent: Scott Moore

Others Present: Allison Pouliot, Vermont Program Manager of Window Dressers

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 3:03 PM by Bois. November 19, 2024 minutes approved (motion by Roberts, seconded by Johnson, all in favor).
- Ms. Pouliot led a presentation on Window Dressers (PowerPoint available from Zoning Administrator, Roberts). Window Dressers (WD) is a window insert provider for residents, or business owners, non-profits, etc. 25-30% of their inserts go to low-income households, which may request up to 10 inserts at no cost each year (a 4-hour shift to help make the inserts is required for each 3-5 windows dressed). This is a 5-7 day annual event towns or other entities can put on, and you can join another town for your first year to learn the ropes. There are no startup costs other than volunteer time, and an appropriate place that can be borrowed for 5-7 days. The first step is to set a town's goal, i.e.: 200 windows, or providing inserts for 20-25 homes. It requires a leadership team of at least 3-5 people, and goals are usually set at the end of January. However, the program can be joined at any time. The schedule for the year is usually set by June 1st. Town Meeting Day was noted as a good day to kick off a new WD group. Carver offered to reach out to Grassroots to see if a grant would be available to help with startup costs. Samples were left with ZA Roberts for town staff/boards to view. Roberts commented that the free training Ms. Pouliot offered on fundraising and outreach would be valuable to the new WEC board in other aspects.
- Bois mentioned the Climate Catalyst Grant was not won, but was very competitive and thanked Carver for his work.
- Bois gave an update on the MERP (Municipal Energy Resilience Program) grant, and the town won a total of just over \$313K for the Town Hall, Town Garage, and Memorial Hall, thanking Roberts for her work. A meeting will be held on the third Tuesday in January at 2pm with the Town Manager to discuss the spending of these funds (January 21, 2025).
- Roberts gave a short review of the first Button Up Workshop hosted by the WEC. We had 14 in attendance. A thank you card was signed for Shaw's who donated drinks. She mentioned next year's planning should start earlier (June) as bad weather was a factor in getting folks out. A short discussion was held on inviting WD to also attend.
- Bois discussed two ongoing projects: the Town Report being handed in on time, and he is setting up a meeting with Town Manager, Scott Tucker, and Johnson to review how the Portfolio Manager project can move forward.
- Roberts motioned for adjournment, seconded by Johnson, and passed without dissent at 4:10 PM.

Minutes submitted by Secretary,
Jessica Roberts