

Wolfeboro Energy Committee
December 20, 2019 at 8:45 am
Wolfeboro Town Hall Annex Meeting Room
MINUTES

Minutes written by Nancy Hirshberg.

Present:

John Byers, Eli Roxby, Doug Smith, Jim Nupp, Linda Murray, Nancy Hirshberg, Dick Byrd, Doug Smithwood, Susan Fuller

8:45 Opening Round

Review and accept minutes and membership updates

Minutes of 2019-12-10 Special Meeting: Review Warmth and more Fund proposal Motion by: Doug Smith 2nd by John Byers. Vote: Approved unanimously by All members present.

Minutes of 2019-11-08 Regular Meeting: Amended in the minutes, add Paul O'Brien as BOS Alternate. Motion to approve as edited by Dick. 2nd by Doug Smith. Approved by all members present except Linda Murray abstained as she was not present at the meeting.

Update on 2019-12-19 BOS meeting: report from Energy Committee

Susan reported on the presentation. Well received by the BOS. No concerns expressed. The Warmth and More warrant article was added to the list of warrant articles.

After the energy committee's meeting on 12-10-19 the town attorney recommended that the creation of the fund needed to be done by warrant article.

Discussed that we cannot start accepting donations now as there is no fund to take the donations until after the vote to create it.

Nancy will organize press and letters to the editors in support of the creation of the fund. Linda recommended that we do it soon before the noise from the many letters regarding the other warrant articles and that we also get it on Facebook.

Reports from Subgroups- 10 minutes each

Transportation: Jim Nupp and Dick Byrd

Jim Nupp spoke about his personal opinion: Concerned about breaking into sub-groups. Maybe look at a different approach. Pick the low hanging fruit first.

Jim also reported on an electric bus for the school district: Jim put the GWRSD transportation dept in touch with info on the VW settlement money to replace diesel buses with electric. Jim will follow-up with them.

Jim also reported on public bus transportation to town. Meredith just started with Concord Trailways. Jim is going to talk with Mary at the Chamber to see if there is interest in doing this. Could possibly craft a program with Trailways like Meredith, and/or Coastal down to Dover bus station. Several people said that a bus to the Dover C&J would get a lot of use.

Linda reported that Kathy Eaton (Molly the Trolley) is doing a park and ride this summer from the High School into town, every 30 minutes.

Municipal Energy: Nancy and John Byers

Nancy reported on a meeting that John and Nancy had for an initial plan.

They will ask Jim Pineo when things get a bit slower for him if they can meet to discuss the municipal goals in the master plan. The purpose will be to hear Jim's thoughts and how the committee can best be of assistance to him and the town staff in achieving the goal. John and Nancy developed some ideas on things that could be done that they will suggest to Jim. These include the completion of the updating of the energy tracking and the energy committee offering to do an Energy Charette for Jim, Department Heads and any other key staff that he chooses. The purpose of the Charette would be for key town staff to build an understanding of municipal energy use in Wolfeboro, generate ideas on how best to proceed in achieving the goal of 40% reductions, motivate the staff to embrace the goals of the master plan and identify needs from the staff.

John spoke about the opportunity with the new business manager.

Linda: Like the approach of inspiring the employees and Dept heads. After deliberative session would be a good time to talk with Jim. Perhaps he will want this to be one of his goals.

Our role is to support Jim.

Several people spoke of the need to motivate the Dept heads. Need everyone on board.

Community Education: Nancy and Susan

Nancy distributed a document with their initial thoughts about an education plan (see attached) and walked people through the document.

Susan spoke about the need to build support and avoid the creation of opposition by preventing people from feeling run over, or that the ideas don't align with their values, and that they feel heard.

Renewables: Doug Smithwood

- Doug handed out a document (see attached).
- Doug:
 - o Having energy committee teams we are very diluted.
 - o Goal: have 50% town's energy supplied by renewables in 9 years. Electric Dept large scale solar is a great opportunity. Very feasible.
 - o Municipality doesn't get the tax write-off benefit of a for profit (up to 50%). The way around that is third party ownership of an array.
 - o Proposal: Have the MED work with a developer to aggregate and purchase third party solar in Town on municipal land and facilities.
 - o We can create 1.5 MW without jeopardizing our MED contract.
 - o If we do solar at scale we can get a 20 yr agreement at a lower cost than we currently buy electricity.
 - o Proposal was sent to Barry about doing something like this. He has a lot on his plate.
 - o Key role of the electric dept would be to identify where this would work and what upgrades in the grid would be required.
 - o Nancy recommend: Start with a win with Dave Ford. Could be just as big (400 KW) and demonstrate that a PPA can be a win for all and save the town money. Then move to the MED model proposed by Doug.
 - o Library: Solar was postponed for a few years so that they can buy it instead of doing a PPA. A warrant article for 2020 was not approved by the BOS.
 - o Do we want to support the committee focused on municipal solar project?
 - o Nancy: We need a win.
 - o John Byers:
 - Agree on scale, but trying to do 6-8 installations that add up to 400 – wouldn't it make sense to do 1-2 MW in one place?

- We may need someone in addition to the committee and Barry like an energy manager
- Doug: Barry wants distributed generation- not one central generating system.
- Linda: Consider Abenaki as a location for the solar. It hits multiple electricity users (waste water, Pop Whalen, near main transmission lines, etc.) Multiple departments.
- Doug: Disadvantage of large projects is that they might need line upgrades.

Next steps

Next Meeting, Friday, Jan 24th 1 pm

Discuss solar more. Reach agreement on the approach. Between now and then, do more research.

10:15 Adjourned