

Town of Wolfeboro Energy Committee Meeting Minutes September 18th at 8 AM (VIRTUAL MEETING ONLY)

Present:

Committee Members: Dick Byrd, Eli Roxby, Susan Fuller, Nancy Hirshberg, Linda Murray, Jim Nupp, Doug Smith, Doug Smithwood

Other: Barry Muccio was in and out

1. Opening Round
2. Accept Minutes from July 30, 2020
 - Moved to accept by Dick Byrd
 - 2nd by Doug Smithwood
 - Unanimously accepted
3. Strategic Plan Discussion
 - Nancy Hirshberg presented slides on the history of the Energy Committee, barriers to action, opportunities and recommendations that she and Susan Fuller had drafted. The slides are submitted with the minutes.
 - Notes from the discussion:
 - i. Suggestion to add municipal energy/buildings back into the recommendations as there is opportunity there.
 - ii. Barry identified what he believes are the two biggest opportunities to reduce GHG emissions and energy: municipal building efficiency and conservation and upgrades to the electric system. Through the electric system upgrades the past few years, Barry has already reduced energy by 4400 MWhrs through decreased losses saving the town \$1.3 million.
 - iii. Do we want to put a warrant article out on renewables to promote public discussion of the issue, or simply a discussion with the board of Selectmen?
 - After discussion about the recommendations a vote was taken to approve the following as our list of priorities:
 - Move forward with a solar project at WWTP, so we can get a successful money saving project completed.
 - Work with top electricity users in town to develop behind the meter solar projects.
 - Municipal Energy: Continue plugging forward on getting the tracking completed, setting reduction goals and getting buy-in.

- Transportation: Work in committee to develop a plan to support and promote the electrification of transportation in Wolfeboro, beginning with providing charging stations to visitors.
- Evaluate what needs to be done in town to get buy-in and support from the Selectmen, MED and the community for renewables. (Warrant article? Selectmen?)

The vote was approved by roll call: Motion to approve by Linda Murray, Seconded by Doug Smith. Approved by Susan Fuller, Eli Roxby, Doug Smith, Doug Smithwood, Dick Byrd, Jim Nupp, Nancy Hirshberg

4. Reports from Committees:

- Municipal Solar
 - i. Doug Smithwood reported on his thoughts on solar at the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) and filter bed road.
 - ii. Next Step: Doug Smithwood will set-up a meeting with Dave Ford, Barry Muccio, Jim Pineo (invited but not essential), Doug Smith and Nancy Hirshberg to brainstorm solar opportunities near the WWTP.
 - iii. Reminder to consider bike and ski trails and those stakeholders

5. Other Business

- LES Conference
 - i. LES Conference is coming up soon. The town has two free tickets. Interested in the tickets are Doug Smithwood, Doug Smith, Dick, Eli and Susan. Nancy already bought a ticket. People will confirm with Susan that they want to attend and then she will determine who will get the free tickets and if there are funds in the energy committee's account that can be used for this purpose.
- Sign-on letter from Clean Energy NH
 - i. Nancy announced that Clean Energy NH has a sign-on letter regarding supporting net metering in the state and they are asking individuals to sign. Nancy will send it out to everyone with the minutes.

6. Next Meeting: October 16th 8-9:30. People want to do it in Town Hall and the upstairs has been reserved. It appears that we also have to make it available online so it may mean that people have to bring their laptops. Amy Capone Muccio is checking on how we can make this work.

7. Transportation/Charging systems

- Nancy Hirshberg presented on the work she and Dick Byrd have done to research potential charging stations in Wolfeboro. They will come to the Energy Committee with a plan as soon as possible so that we can be ready if grant money becomes available.

8. System Benefits Charge

- That is on hold for now given the strategic plan and the new priorities.

9. Closing Round

- People shared about their thoughts on the meeting

10. Adjourn

Minutes Approved at the October 16, 2020 Committee Meeting.