

**Town of Londonderry Energy Committee**  
**DRAFT Minutes - January 15, 2019**

Attending:

Committee Members: Will Reed, Bruce Frauman, Lawrence Gubb, Donna Korpi, Bob Borella

1. Will called the meeting to order at 6:25 pm
2. Will moved, Bob seconded to go right to John Copan's phone call.  
Motion passed unanimously (as did all motions)

3. Jon Copans - Model Communities

Jon gave a history of the Model Communities program. Since the 1980's: rural America has been falling back economically. We should create world development councils to think about how we are serving rural communities. Members of the Vermont council included those appointed from the governor's office, members of the legislature, businesses, and non-profit business representatives. Paul Costello was the chair for 15 years <?>. The goal was/is to be a convener of conversations on the community level.

Vermont Climate Economy Model Communities Program: Jon's role is to facilitate conversations especially regarding the climate economy. Pownal, Middlebury, Randolph and Swanton are currently participating. Two new communities every year will be chosen from applications. Jon will facilitate community conversation over 3 or 4 months. These include energy saving opportunities such as fuel switching, use of renewable energy, conservation and transportation - the toughest nut to crack. Other community initiatives?

In Middlebury: a distinct neighborhood was chosen first. The first goal was for residents to agree to have free home energy visit by VT Gas or Efficiency Vermont (EV). Jon brought utility partners together and initiated conversation. The program is continuing on to other neighborhoods. It does catalyze action on behalf of residents. and is designed from the bottom up. About partnerships, especially EV, the questions are: Where are energy saving opportunities? How implement? How do we reach people who we wouldn't reach otherwise.

Questions : Bob - brief offered a history for the last two years with EC and Bob prior: 5 or 6 years ago as a representative of business and a resident, he proposed that the Select Board join PACE SB said this sounds interesting. We will consider it only if you become Energy Coordinator. He accepted. He developed PACE program and the SB approved. The Town Attorney had questions, so SB did not sign off on going forward. Didn't do much after that as Energy Coordinator. Two years ago Will started Energy Committee. Started with enhanced energy planning. Approval through WRC. Now written into new town plan. Now where do we go from here? We haven't done much with educational programs, thought did sponsor a Button Up program.

Bob's question: Londonderry is smaller and more rural than Middlebury. Do we have to participate on the town level or can we participate on a regional level? We could include Weston, Peru (with an EC), and Landgrove and possibly Jamaica and Winhall. Jon asked if we have strong ties with these communities. For example, in Middlebury & Randolph they created Greater Middlebury, (modeling their school district). Randolph Region was created which was somewhat connected already. So Yes, in theory. But the application is due Friday. We want to be sure we are invited in by a community so letter signed by SB is important. Do we want to do a multi-town application in a formal way or can Londonderry apply and pull in surrounding towns once started? Bob's answer: we haven't had initial conversation with other communities. So it would be an informal structure at least at first. Jon said it is easier to have one community to apply, but he is flexible Bruce said the towns Bob mentioned were part of a unified school district, now dissolved in the wake of an Act 46 restructuring, but it would be kind of cool to continue the relationship. Jon said sometimes formal ties with town can be limited, so he can be fluid in inviting people into the process.

Will asked: is there money? Answer - no. Except food or flyers. No check to pay for projects. We all pay a EV fee. So we can accrue back some of the EV money and get some focused attention from EV and can provide incentives for work for a town building needing energy saving renovations. We need to bring a concerted effort to bring in EV on the ground. There is a band of communities in southern Vermont that don't get the attention they should. Will said it would be like getting back stage passes to a show.

Jon said a whole lot of people don't know they want to go to the show. What is offered is a concentrated delivery of services. They are looking for opportunities for partnership. Jon has a platform to try out new things to deliver new services, but it is not ready for primetime yet. It is coming , < **what exactly?** > It comes out of Public Service Dept to engage in financing with a third partner out of state now talking with EV.

Will said our initial interest is solar for the town of Londonderry. His concern is rallying the community. Bob and Donna said we don't rally well. Jon asked if we have trouble unifying together because of divisiveness. Will said he hit the nail on the head. Brings me real concern. We might not be able to bring a strong base of support. Jon said we should ask: What kind of traction do I need to be successful? As it exists right now, Model Communities is about convening a large community conversation. In Pownal at first there some really tough conversations. The fear of some folks was of some grand agenda for them. The program in big form is most successful when a community is rallying with non-usual participants. A critical mass of participation is needed. Will said we would have to be really focused on one thing. Jon said he is open to sidebar work. His program is open to focused work with Londonderry, even if we are not formally one of 2 towns of Model Communities for 2019. He suggests we start with something focused. He is open to continuing conversation. We should make it more formal with some commitments from EC so the time goes into Jon's work plan.

Larry Gubb said many of his questions were already answered. For Londonderry getting a something done but not necessarily Model communities. Jon said he needs to figure out how to serve town's like ours, perhaps by connecting with other key players. Larry said he is open to any ideas. Jon said there are many models for community solar with regulation always changing. There are some good partners out there with financial interest. Find prime candidates for solar with previous work. Will and Larry said: definitely. Will said it is in the town energy plan. Larry said there is a private solar project and offtakers have been found but not publicized. Will said there were siting issues with one community solar development. It put the town in an awkward position. He has some areas in mind that are perfect for a solar field. Jon asked if we have wastewater treatment? Larry said that is a long way off. Will said the town's electrical

load is fairly low, so solar projects can have a large impact.

Jone said when a solar project has excess capacity - how do you find oftakers? One person to contact is **Dorrie <????>** Bob said the Energy Committee is tasked to start taking steps to save energy using solar, efficiency, a wood pellet plant. We need to get things going on our own here, perhaps with regional partners. Jon said we need bite size pieces from energy plan to create concrete action plan. Jon said the state has an interest in using those plans to make projects. He works with Paul Markowitz (EV) extensively organizing regional committees of energy committees. Bob said we will continue to use you as a resource. Your help is much appreciated. Jon said he is always happy to do that.

Bruce said he felt the Model Community is too broad for Londonderry and that the EC should use the energy plan to pick action steps. Jon said the key is to have a community conversation in the most effective way possible. Bruce said we could use CRO technology to conduct community conversation. Jon said he is old school and uses stickers but he is interested in new technology and signed off.

Donna said Model Communities would not make sense for now.

Will said the conversation with Jon was the best of both worlds - we don't have to apply, but he is willing to help us anyway. We should not pass up on that. It is now too late for major funding project to be put together before town meeting.

Larry agreed the conversation was very useful.

Will proposed we we work to put solar on the Prouty land and perhaps the roof of new salt shed. Bob said we should prioritize projects - municipal solar big picture project or residential home owner level? Larry asked if we could do both? Bob said we should get out there via Facebook. If we don't bite off too big a project we could do both. Larry said we should look at other buildings regarding solar exposure.

Will asked Larry about block grants? Cynthia Gubb is on the board for state community development block grants. Larry said the source varies

from year to year. Money flows from federal grants to the state which reviews applications to choose who would get the money. A variety of projects have been funded. Larry is uncertain about the application process.

Bob said regarding solar, the salt shed is low hanging fruit. We should get that built and out the way.

4. Approval of minutes

Will moved and Bob seconded to approve the Dec 11 minutes as submitted. Passed.

Bruce asked if we should talk about VCAN at the next meeting. Will said yes.

5. Facebook/Web page

Will hasn't had time to work on it. Bob can continue to develop Facebook.

6. Jason Day - Star Turbines LLC

Will said Jason found Will's name and reached out. They are building turbines in East Dorset. Several of us watched the online power point program. Jason is interested in giving a presentation if we can rally interest. Donna said she has anemometers at her store that are 30' high. A laptop can download the data. Will asked: for feasibility studies? Donna said, Yes. We can set up. Will said Star Turbines has tackled sound from the turbines and funding. Donna said wind requires maintenance and solar does not. Also big wind projects are a way to cycle money from tax credits, then the project is sold to others. Larry said he likes that they fold down for maintenance.

Will asked if we should bring Jason in for a presentation to the town. Bruce asked if we should go to Saturday morning demonstration? Will and Donna are often busy weekends. Donna said maybe we could visit on some spring evening such as toward the end of April. Will will talk with Jason about a visit then an event.

Will said the is not sure that "small events" like Button Up are worth it. Bruce said the speaker was pleased. We attracted about 7 people beside

the EC.

7. Date (and agenda) for next meeting(s)

Bob said at the next meeting we should have a serious discussion about putting solar on the salt shed or elsewhere on the Prouty property. We should figure out the salt shed's orientation and square footage and ask the SB for approval. It is low hanging fruit, a simple project. We can accomplish something. Then identify more town lands and keep going. Will said we will gain a ton of credibility if we can pull it off. It sets a precedent. We will be leaders by example.

Bruce said maybe at meeting after (March) we could pull out Energy plan and read it, especially Sec 5 to see if action steps resonate. Bob agrees.

Will said he learned he can send agendas to Shane, Kelly, and Tina to print and post.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb 13 at 6:15 in the Twitchell Building.

8. Notes:

Larry said to see RAP for good articles on energy.  
We still need to print and approve Will's Oct minutes.

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm

Minutes submitted by Bruce Frauman, clerk, on Jan 18, 2019.