

DRAFT

**Town of Londonderry
Energy Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 20, 2019
Twitchell Building - 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry VT**

Committee Members Present: Bob Borella, Larry Gubb, Bruce Frauman, Donna Korpi,

Will Reed (arrived 6:40)

Others in Attendance: Shane O'Keefe from 7:15 to 7:40

1. Call Meeting to Order

Vice Chair Bob Borella called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

2. Additions of Deletions to the agenda

Bob asked to add invoice to committee for food for the Button-Up workshop.

Bob said Shane O'Keefe may break from the DRB to talk about using the former septic fields as a solar installation site.

3. Approval of Minutes

Bruce moved and Donna seconded to approve minutes of Oct. 23, 2019 with three clarifying changes. Passed unanimously.

4. Invoice for food for Button-Up

Donna submitted an invoice for \$50 thought the total is \$82. She will contribute \$32. Bruce moved, Donna seconded to approve Donna's invoice of \$50 to submit to Efficiency Vermont. Passed unanimously. Donna will submit to Efficiency Vermont.

5. Button-Up Follow Up

Larry asked how we can get more people to attend. Larry said Gun Burns said that no no donation is needed, as far as she is concerned, for use of the Depot. She will double check with the West River Trail Board. Will said last year we made a \$50 donation from the EC budget. Bob moved, Larry seconded to make a \$50 donation to the West River Trail from our budget. Passed unanimously. Will will ask Tina to send a check.

Bob said we need to send notices to all local news outlets. Will said they all were given press releases. Will said our attendance including the committee members was an average Button-Up attendance. Outstanding is 20. Bob suggested going all out next time and seeing what happens. Donna suggested a Sunday morning brunch. She said evenings are hard for people with families. Bob said he did seminars at his store for pellet stoves on Saturday mornings with average attendance of 60 people. He said if you have the right timing and the right message we will attract people.

Donna said we could print up some info and have give aways such as switch plate foam inserts. We all agree to give Button Up another shot. Will said Button Up campaign starts in September. We agree to give a weekend a try. Bob said if we booked on or around Aug 15, we would have 2-1/2 months to publicize. Will said he does not know how to make it work. We discussed timing of an event; Bob wants to try

spring or February. Will said there is no time limit to the incentives and that the \$4000 offer will last a long time. If we run it in February we will need to market it and run it ourselves. Will said Button Up is a way to educate people with a specific schedule. Will said we should make it an Energy party with a band with people available with information for those who are interested. Donna said make it a solar fest. Will said make it open to kids.

6. Shane with respect to seepage fields use for solar

Shane said he was about to close out the septic fields but the state recently added PFAST as needed to be tested for. He expects everything to be closed out in the next couple of months. He said the fields are definitely contaminated and can not be used for much of anything else. It can be farmed but not for food. Larry said he knows a guy who installs solar almost exclusively on Brown Fields. Shane we could lease it out. Bob told Shane about our talks with Bill Laberge and his daughter, Dannielle. Bob and Shane told Will that the town does not own the street lights but rents them from GMP, so we cannot offset that electricity. Will asked if there is a return on investment from owning our own street lights. Shane said we would need a bucket truck or a contract with someone to repack the bulbs. Bob said we will look into that.

Shane said there is about 7 acres in the former septic fields and they are oriented north to south. Shane said it could be a money maker. Will said it might be better to lease and get more money than the \$8000 for recouping town energy costs. Larry said Bill and Dannielle suggested we form our own LLC. Shane said we should be sure there is money available for decommissioning. Donna said it is a better site than the Prouty Land. Shane said one set of condos might be able to see the fields. Will said the Queechee ?? does not matter anymore because panels do not reflect. Shane said the initiative should come from the EC, but this is a perfect site and use for solar. Shane said the town could rent and make money. Will asked if the rent money could offset town's energy costs. Bob said it is time to call Ann Margolis with the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation. Will said this is the parent agency for Efficiency Vermont. Shane knows a good lawyer. Shane said we could make arrangements for local businesses to share in the energy. Bob said we could use the energy to power street lights if we purchase them from GMP. Larry said this could help offset our contribution to our renewable energy production. Donna is supporting solar street lights.

7. Municipal Solar update

See discussion in item 6.

8. VECAN Conference

Larry said he will know by Thursday. Bruce said he is going. Donna and Will have other plans. When Larry knows, we will ask Tina to register for us.

9. Next meeting Day and time and agenda

Bob suggests we table talk of Button Up for now and focus on how to support solar on the septic fields.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 7, at 6:00 pm

10. Adjourn

Donna moved, Will seconded to adjourn at 8:05 pm Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Frauman, clerk
Nov. 21, 2019

Approved (expected approval Jan 7, 2020)
Londonderry Energy committee

Will Reed., chair