

Town of Londonderry Energy Committee Minutes - September 6, 2017

Attending:

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

1. Will Reed called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes. Bruce moved, Bob seconded: To approve the minutes of the August 2 meeting with typographical errors corrected. Bob expanded on his “clarification from the WRC (*on what exactly?*)”. Bob is asking WRC staff what is the WRC and town’s responsibility for renewable energy projects. He wants to understand how they come across projects that require their review, and when in the process is the town informed of the scope of the project. Ideally the town, WRC and state learn about a project concurrently. Yet, as far as we know, the Yrsha project was reviewed by the state before the town even knew about it. Does Act 174 change the process of town input for renewable energy projects? Bob is asking WRC staff these questions.
3. kw sizing language. Initially, Policy 4.1 (b) was moved to after the actions steps in Policy 4.1 (a). Later this was changed. Bob will find out the state standards defining “small scale” for solar, wind and micro-hydro to be added to the appropriate action steps under Policy 4.1. The format will be “small scale, up to ___ kw, . . . “. Based on the maps provided, we believe the definition of small scale solar is under 19 kw.
4. Review of Maps. The committee reviewed each map provided by the WRC and found no inconsistencies or need to comment. We realize the Solar Energy Potential is possibly related to our “preferred sites”, but cannot be reduced to any given parcel.
5. Budget Request to SB: After some discussion, we chose to ask for \$500 from the town budget from the Select Board to cover training, mailing, and expenses related to public events, such as energy fairs. Bruce made the motion, Larry seconded. Passed unanimously.
It was noted that there will be a Renewable Energy Vermont (REV) conference on Oct 2 (8 am to 7 pm) and Oct 3 (8 am to 12:30 pm) at a cost of \$30 per person. It was not mentioned at the meeting, but the conference will take place in Burlington. Bob is planning to go, others may, though Will has a training the same day.
6. Final Approval of Enhanced Energy Plan. The meeting started with a half hour discussion of Policy 5. If a resident is off grid with a solar installation, then a certificate of public good is not required, does or should the town have a permitting process to cover aesthetics and other issues such as set-backs and glare? Will asked about applying for a variance. Larry said the town has to be responsible for the hardship in that case. Bob asked if renewable energy construction is considered the same as a building. Larry said that could be considered. Bob suggested that since any development must comply with existing regulations, why is a permit required? Bruce

suggested that a permit is the means of informing the town and one's neighbors of one's plans. Larry said anything that disturbs the ground requires a permit. Bob asked if that included a pole mounted system. Lots of questions with no answers at this time.

Bruce noted one typo and one questionable figure in Section 2, Londonderry's Current Energy Use. On Page 4 under "Current Heating Demand", it is stated that "it can be assumed that seasonal homes use only about 15% of the energy of a primary home." We all agreed that this 15% figure seems very low. Will noted that walking into an empty seasonal home, the temperature is often set to 70°. Also under "Total Energy Costs", "The total estimated cost . . . is over \$8,900,00 million dollars each year." The written out "million dollars" can be deleted.

After much discussion the following changes were made:

- Cross out the "million dollars" on page 4 as noted above.
- Policy 4.1 is left as is. Specific kw figures will be added for "small scale" solar, wind and micro-hydro action steps as noted above.
- Policy 4.1 (b) is now Policy 4.6.
- Policy 4.2 is now Policy 4.8.
- Policy 4.3 is now Policy 4.2.
- Policy 4.4 is now Policy 4.3.
- Policy 4.5 is now Policy 4.4.
- Policy 4.6 is now Policy 4.5.
- Policy 4.7 remains as is.
- Policy 4.8 was deleted (it is the same as old Policy 4.1 (b), now Policy 4.6.)
- Policy 4.9: add a comma after "Flood Brook School" to read "and at Flood Brook School, where appropriate and feasible."
- Policy 5.0 is now Policy 4.10.

Will noted that the Enhanced Energy Plan must be approved by the town before it can be submitted to the Public Utilities Commission for approval. The steps after Energy Committee approval seem to be consideration and approval by the Planning Commission, including a public hearing. Consideration and approval by the Select Board including a public hearing. A report from the Planning Commission on the consistency of the Enhanced Energy Element with the overall town plan.

Bruce moved to approve the Energy Plan with the changes discussed. Bob seconded. Passed unanimously, though we all agreed we want to see it finished in writing before passing it on to the Planning Commission.

7. EC Mission Statement. Tabled

8. Seat Vacancy. Ian Jenson has moved to Manchester and will no longer be active. We don't know if a formal letter of resignation is required. Will said the Select Board specifically asked for a five member committee. Bob mentioned that Ken Alberti of the Blue Gentian has expressed interest in serving on the Energy Committee as well as another woman whose name he did not remember. Will likes the idea of someone

with building construction experience, such as Dave Forbes. Bruce asked about the process. We believe we can select a person and make a recommendation to the Select Board for them to appoint.

9. The next meeting is set for Wednesday, October 11 at 6:00 pm.

10 The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Submitted by Bruce Frauman, Clerk
September 10, 2017