



**Minutes for Town of Pawlet Energy Group**  
**Pawlet, VT**  
**Monday, December 26, 2016, 12:00 PM**  
**Town Hall Conference Room**

**Members Present:**

Elizabeth Gibson, [egib@vermontel.net](mailto:egib@vermontel.net)  
Harry Van Meter, [hevanmeter@gmail.com](mailto:hevanmeter@gmail.com)  
Sue LaPorte, [susanlaporte53@yahoo.com](mailto:susanlaporte53@yahoo.com)

**Members Absent:**

Ken Friedman, [kenneth.j.friedman@gmail.com](mailto:kenneth.j.friedman@gmail.com)  
Nancy Morlino, [nancym259@aol.com](mailto:nancym259@aol.com)

**Audience:**

Frank Nelson, West Pawlet

**Others Copied:**

Deb Hawkins, [pawletclerk@vermontel.net](mailto:pawletclerk@vermontel.net)

**Purpose of Meeting:** To foster discussion of topics relevant to the awareness of energy use, efficiency and conservation within the Town of Pawlet and to establish and promote guidelines for the implementation of the energy initiatives set down in the Town Plan.

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**Item 1: Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the last monthly meeting on November 28, 2016 have been distributed, corrected, and posted at the town website, <http://pawlet.vt.gov/town-offices/energy-group/>.

**Item 2: Solar Proposal for Town Landfill**

Frank said that the GMP approval process for this project could be very time-consuming, due to the high volume of applications. Elizabeth said she would check on this.

**Item 3: Solar Project at Mettawee Community School**

No change from last month: Nancy reported via email that she did in with the Sarah Post of the UD 47 school board, and they haven't taken this matter up yet. Nancy offered Sarah the assistance of the Energy Group if needed.

**Item 4: Possible Energy Fair Next Spring**

The group set a tentative date for this event, Saturday, April 22, 2017, Earth Day, Town Hall auditorium. We could invite local people to share their experience with energy efficiency improvements, as well as renewable energy technologies. Specific suggestions included the Larsons in Wells, a family in W Pawlet using geothermal, and Rhonda "Honey" Phillips in Middletown Springs, who is using solar panels and a Tesla battery for home heating. Along with the users, we could also ask vendors to be present, such as Bill Laberge of Grassroots Solar in Dorset and Ben Bolaski of SunCommon. Elizabeth will see if Alan Betts, climate scientist,

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would speak. Potential participating organizations might be Efficiency VT, Green Mountain Power, etc. We talked about including workshops as well as displays.

### **Item 5: Rutland Regional Energy Group Meetings**

Eric Mach, Chair of the Pawlet Planning Commission, has alerted us to the monthly regional energy group meetings at the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM. Eric says he is attending these meetings and has suggested that a member of the Pawlet Energy Group go as well. Harry said he might be able to do this.

### **Item 6: Assessing Weatherization Work on Municipal Buildings and Effect of Streetlight Study**

Elizabeth suggested compiling data on energy use at the Town Hall and Library for the past few years to determine the effect of the weatherization work we have done. This would involve reviewing the fuel consumption, taking into account pricing and weather variables. A related topic would be the bill for streetlight electricity over the past few years, to see the effect of the streetlight culling and LED conversion done over the past few years.

### **Item 7: Audience**

Frank Nelson distributed handouts on a variety of topics:

- New fuel cell technology (nickel-based)
- Zero point energy
- Epigenetic change as a result of climate warming
- Sugar consumption
- Economic development as related to energy use patterns

Harry and Elizabeth suggested that Frank distill and present some of the relevant information pertaining to planning issues to the Pawlet Planning Commission. Elizabeth mentioned that Lyle Lyle Jepson of the Rutland Economic Development Corporation and Mary Cohen of the Rutland Chamber of Commerce would be attending a joint meeting of the Pawlet Select Board and Planning Commission on January 31.

### **Item 7: Next Meeting**

The next regular monthly meeting of the Pawlet Energy Group is scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2016, 12 PM, at the Town Hall.

The agenda for that meeting will be:

- Review minutes from last meeting (5 minutes)
- Old business: landfill solar site, Spring energy fair (30 minutes)
- New business: (10 minutes)
- Audience (10 minutes)

*Minutes submitted by Elizabeth Gibson*