



**Minutes for Town of Pawlet Energy Group
Pawlet, VT
Monday, February 27, 2017, 2:00 PM
Town Hall Conference Room**

Members Present:

Elizabeth Gibson, egib@vermontel.net

Harry Van Meter, hevanmeter@gmail.com

Nancy Morlino, nancym259@aol.com

Ken Friedman, kenneth.j.friedman@gmail.com (via Skype)

Members Absent:

Sue LaPorte, susanlaporte53@yahoo.com

Audience:

Frank Nelson

Others Copied:

Deb Hawkins, 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.

Item 1: Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the last monthly meeting on January 23, 2017 have been distributed, corrected, and posted at the town website, <http://pawlet.vt.gov/town-offices/energy-group/>.

Item 2: Energy Fair, April 22, 2017, 1-4 PM, Town Hall Auditorium

We have confirmed the date for this event and are starting to line up presenters. At our next meeting in February we plan to have a draft program for the day. We will offer display space in the auditorium and have speakers present in the conference room downstairs. We hope to include both users and vendors of renewable energy technologies.

Presenters: Nancy has so far confirmed with Green Mountain Power, Efficiency Vermont, and NeighborWorks of Western Vermont. GMP has offered to have electric cars available. Alan Betts, climate scientist, has agreed to be the featured speaker, and we would suggest about 30 minutes for him. Nancy suggests we offer other presenters 15-minute slots and schedule 3 presenters per hour. Elizabeth will ask Alan Betts which time slot he prefers, and she will also contact Efficiency VT speakers bureau for additional speaker possibilities, particularly those who can speak to agricultural applications.

Pawlet Energy Group Meeting Notes

February 27, 2017 @ 2:00 PM

Page 2 of 3

Additional possibilities: For users, we are thinking of local people to share their experience with energy efficiency improvements as well as renewable energy technologies. Possibilities include:

- Larson farm in Wells (Ken try again),
- Green Mountain College (Elizabeth has reached out; Nancy can follow up if necessary via Dan Mackey at GMP),
- Philip Ackerman-Leist(Elizabeth has reached out),
- Madeline and Tom Wentworth who use geothermal power (Harry will email),
- Rhonda “Honey” Phillips in Middletown Springs, who is using solar panels and a Tesla battery for home heating (we will ask Sue to contact them).

Possible vendors: Bill Laberge of Grassroots Solar in Dorset, Ben Bolaski of SunCommon, Weatherization Works, etc. We’d ask vendors to reserve space on a first come, first serve basis and ask for donation to support Town Hall Restoration Project. We need to figure out how much space/vendor and how many spaces to offer. Ken suggested we ask vendors to donate door prizes.

Publicity: Elizabeth has posted this event on our Facebook page and at the Town website; we are starting to hear back from people interested in presenting. GMP has given us a press release and Elizabeth will get the press release out to local newspapers. Regarding specs for vendor spaces, we anticipate hosting 10-15 vendors max on a first-come, first-serve basis and will request donations for the Town Hall Restoration fund, without specifying any suggested amount.

Audience: To get the word out to our local audience, we will:

Reach out to Mettawee Community School (Nancy)

Contact Robin-Chesnut Tangerman (Nancy)

Get the word out via Pawlet eNews, website, town meeting and local papers (Elizabeth)

Put a sandwich board out on the Route 30 bridge by the Pawlet PO (Nancy)

Item 3: Solar Proposal for Town Landfill

Nancy circulated a sample RFP from the Town of Warren, NH, which we could use as a basis for drafting our RFP. We will follow up with Warren to see how it worked for them and we will also investigate resources for helping us through this process, such as Robin Chesnut-Tangerman, John Malcolm, the Climate Economy Model Communities program and the USDA grants for financing such projects (Ken).

Nancy asked for feedback from the group members on the Warren RFP.

Item 4: Next Meeting

The next regular monthly meeting of the Pawlet Energy Group is scheduled for Monday, March 27, 2017, 12 PM, at the Town Hall.

The agenda for that meeting will be:

- Review minutes from last meeting (5 minutes)

Pawlet Energy Group Meeting Notes

February 27, 2017 @ 2:00 PM

Page 3 of 3

- Old business: Spring energy fair, landfill solar site (30 minutes)
- New business: (10 minutes)
- Audience (10 minutes)

Minutes submitted by Elizabeth Gibson