

Town of Pawlet, Vermont

Energy Group Meeting

Meeting Notes

Date and Time: Monday, November 24, 2014 @ 12:00 noon

Location: Pawlet Town Hall

Members in Attendance:	Sue LaPorte	sel53@vermontel.net
	Elizabeth Gibson	egib@vermontel.net
	Harry Van Meter	hevanmeter@gmail.com
	Nancy Morlino	nancym259@aol.com

Members Absent:	Cintia Morrissey	amiconst@gmail.com
	Ken Friedman	kenneth.j.friedman@gmail.com

Others in Attendance	Elisabeth Van Woert	els@suncommon.com
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Others copied

Purpose/Intent 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. The Group, at the request of the Pawlet Planning Commission, is working on revising the energy section of the Town Plan for 2015.

If it is believed that these meeting notes are not complete, accurate, or in context, please notify the undersigned of such discrepancy within ten days following receipt of this record.

Item key: xx.xx.xx – first 2 digits indicate year, second 2 digits indicate month and last 2 digits indicate item of discussion.

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>
14.11.01	Meeting Minutes	<p>Since Harry will not be able to continue as Secretary of the Energy Group, the group decided that for now the group members would take turns acting as Secretary.</p> <p>Elizabeth will do the November 24 meeting minutes; Nancy would do the January meeting minutes, and Sue will do February. Harry said he could also participate on a rotating basis.</p>	EG
14.11.02	Els Van Woert of SunCommon	<p>Els is a Solar Organizer for SunCommon and does community outreach for Rutland County. She is working to connect with energy groups and explained the history and mission of SunCommon, which aims to promote clean, renewable energy through educational outreach and elimination of upfront costs. The focus is on small-scale applications, both residential and community-based. We agreed to keep in touch with her and collaborate on community/energy events and think about local partnership opportunities. Steve Peters will be acting in her place for the next three months while she is out on maternity leave.</p>	
14.11.03	Recent pedestrian survey in Pawlet	<p>Results from the October 23 pedestrian safety review were discussed, with possible focus on streetlights. The review was inconclusive, however, with no specific follow up actions recommended except possibly a crosswalk across Route 30 to the Pawlet Post Office. The review was attended by members of the Pawlet community, Rutland Regional Planning Commission, AARP, and the Rutland Area Physical Activity Coalition , who walked around Pawlet village as part of a health impacts study to assess paving, sidewalks, streetscapes etc. to ascertain suitability for walkers.</p>	

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>
14.11.04	Pawlet Streetlight Study	Nancy will ask the Select Board to make a motion at its next meeting to turn off the 20 selected streetlights permanently. The projected cost of streetlights to the town next year will be \$7.4K, compared to the current cost of \$13K, due to the turn offs and conversion to LEDs. Note that Pawlet is in the queue for LED conversion sometime in 2015. There is some uncertainty about 2 lights in West Pawlet; those will either be eliminated or paid for by the homeowner, as stipulated in a letter that the Select Board should send the homeowner.	NM
14.11.05	Efficiency Vermont Community Forum	Elizabeth mentioned the upcoming forum in Brandon on December 11, as Efficiency Vermont continues to seek public input on its priorities for the next three years.	
14.11.06	PACE program	Elizabeth will explain this financing program for making home energy improvements to the Select Board tomorrow night. She will suggest that the board put the article on the town election ballot asking voters to make Pawlet a PACE district (property assessed clean energy). She will also request support from Efficiency Vermont in providing background information at a select board meeting sometime in January.	EG
14.11.07	Energy Section of Pawlet Town Plan	The group understands that the Pawlet Planning Commission has been awarded a grant to help pay for the town plan revision and will coordinate with the person at the Rutland Regional Planning Commission who will be leading this effort.	
14.11.08	Next meeting	The next meeting of the Pawlet Energy Group is scheduled for Monday, January 26, 12 PM, at the Town Hall.	

Submitted by:

Elizabeth Gibson, Temporary Secretary