



**Minutes for Town of Pawlet Energy Group
Pawlet, VT
Monday, April 25, 2016, 12:00 PM
Town Hall Conference Room**

Members Present:

Elizabeth Gibson, egib@vermontel.net
Nancy Morlino, nancym259@aol.com
Harry Van Meter, hevanmeter@gmail.com

Members Absent:

Sue LaPorte, susanlaporte53@yahoo.com
Ken Friedman, kenneth.j.friedman@gmail.com

Others in Attendance:

Ben Bolaski, Solar Community Organizer, SunCommon, Ben@suncommon.com

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 March 28, 2016 have been distributed and posted at the town website, <http://pawlet.vt.gov/town-offices/energy-group/>. There were no corrections.

Item 2: Ben Bolaski, SunCommon

Ben came to get acquainted; we gave him an overview of our recent activities – PACE approval, streetlights, possible solar project at Mettawee Community School, possible solar sites in West Pawlet industrial zone, such as old landfill site. Ben is interested in getting the word out regarding SunCommon's programs for small-scale, residential solar systems. Utility incentives are going to come down after 2017; right now they are very good, which, combined with no upfront charges, means the consumer can basically replace their electric bill costs with loan repayment for these systems. Systems must be installed and running by end of 2016 to qualify for the incentives. After the 2017 deadline, Ben said, the utility incentive will decline from \$.20 to \$.17 per kWh.

SunCommon offers a seamless process, according to Ben, which is explained at their website www.suncommon.com. Peck Electric does their installations, and 70% of their projects are roof-mounted, 30% ground-mounted. Harry mentioned that the Pawlet Planning Commission is amending the zoning bylaws to only allow ground-mounted systems in residential areas.

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Item 3: Energy Fair at Town Hall

We talked about planning an energy fair event at the Town Hall later this year, which would be a chance for SunCommon to get the word out to the Pawlet community. Ben had some ideas for presentations he could make at that event and said he would need at least a one-month lead time. We are also planning to contact Efficiency Vermont, NeighborWorks of Western Vermont, and Green Mountain Power to participate. Nancy will contact these organizations to see if they are interested. A similar event was held recently in Fair Haven.

Item 3: Clean Energy Design Solar Proposal for Town Landfill

Nancy said that CEDG has increased the array size to 1.6 MW, so that the proposed annual lease payment to the town should be raised as well – the initial figure was \$25K/year. CEDG is also looking into the PSB permitting situation, which may not be favorable right now.

Item 4: Solar Project at Mettawee Community School

Nancy asked Harry if a ground-mounted array would be allowed under the revised zoning bylaws, since the roof of the school building is not suitable for solar panels. According to Harry, the school property is not regulated by the Town. Nancy said the school board (UD 47) is planning to issue an RFP for this project. The next UD 47 meeting is set for May 11, at which Bill LaBerge of Grass Roots Solar in Dorset will be making a presentation.

Item 5: Energy Project for Mettawee Community School

Nancy is interested in having the energy group sponsor an energy competition event at the school. She will talk to the science teacher there.

Item 6. Next Meeting

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

Minutes submitted by Elizabeth Gibson