



**Minutes for Town of Pawlet Energy Group  
Pawlet, VT  
Monday, November 28, 2016, 12:00 PM  
Town Hall Conference Room**

**Members Present:**

Elizabeth Gibson, [egib@vermontel.net](mailto:egib@vermontel.net)

Ken Friedman, [kenneth.j.friedman@gmail.com](mailto:kenneth.j.friedman@gmail.com) (via Skype)

Harry Van Meter, [hevanmeter@gmail.com](mailto:hevanmeter@gmail.com)

Sue LaPorte, [susanlaporte53@yahoo.com](mailto:susanlaporte53@yahoo.com)

**Members Absent:**

Nancy Morlino, [nancym259@aol.com](mailto:nancym259@aol.com)

**Audience:**

Frank Nelson, West Pawlet

Bob Schoenemann, 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 October 24, 2016 have been distributed and posted at the town website, <http://pawlet.vt.gov/town-offices/energy-group/>. There were no corrections.

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

Elizabeth said that we have not yet received SunCommon's report, which will summarize their recommendations based on their October site visit. At that point we will be ready to draft an RFP. Harry said he could help with the RFP draft and asked if we have a template to follow. Elizabeth said that Nancy has experience with this, having drafted an RFP for the potential project at the Mettawee Community School. Elizabeth also mentioned that Cintia Morrissey of Solar Works had expressed an interest in bidding on the landfill project when the RFP is available.

Frank said that Positive Power in Granville is not pursuing these types of projects now, which may explain why Nancy had not received a reply from them a few months ago. Frank also said that it would be important to resolve any possible wetlands issues early in the process, and we agreed that that concern should be expressed in the RFP.

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

No change from last month: Nancy plans to attend the next UD 47 School Board meeting in early December for an update.

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

Bob Schoenemann said we might consider this as an expanded Energy Group meeting, rather than a full-fledged fair, to make it more manageable. He recommended Bill Laberge of Grassroots Solar in Dorset, along with Efficiency VT, as possible presenters. Bill has presented a workshop for the Energy Group in the past, and it was well received.

### **Item 5. Carbon Tax**

Harry suggested the Energy Group write a local “white paper” regarding a carbon tax. We agreed that we should monitor the state policy regarding a possible carbon tax – good sources would be any proceedings from the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network (VECAN) meeting next weekend and also the annual VT Council on Rural Development Conference on Climate Change. Nancy and Elizabeth have attended that climate change/energy conference for the past two years and find it a useful way to be in touch with state developments and also to network.

### **Item 6: Audience**

- Bob Schoenemann mentioned that wood fuel is also available as part of the Town’s emergency fuel fund, and Elizabeth will include that info in her next announcement about that fund.
- Frank Nelson talked about the potential for corn as a heat source. He also suggested that the Pawlet Planning Commission’s focus on economic development be coordinated with the Energy Group. Elizabeth mentioned that Lyle Jepson of the Rutland Economic Development Corporation has already approached the planning commission and suggested holding a public meeting regarding this matter sometime this winter.

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

The next regular monthly meeting of the Pawlet Energy Group is scheduled for Monday, December 26, 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*