



**Minutes for Town of Pawlet Energy Group  
Pawlet, VT  
Monday, January 23, 2017, 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)

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

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

**Members Absent:**

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

**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 December 26, 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**

Bhima Nitta of Power Guru of Southern Vermont is scheduled to present at the January 31 Select Board meeting. He will present his plan for an installation at this site and discuss possible financing models, including a property lease program and a solar community program.

**Item 3: 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.

Confirmed 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.

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:

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the Larson farm in Wells (Ken will contact), Green Mountain College (Elizabeth will contact Kevin Coburn and Philip Ackerman-Leist), Madeline and Tom Wentworth who use geothermal power (Harry will contact), Matt Proft (Nancy will contact) and Rhonda “Honey” Phillips in Middletown Springs, who is using solar panels and a Tesla battery for home heating.

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.

Publicity: We will start by posting the energy fair on our Facebook page and at the Town website and will also ask GMP and Efficiency VT for help spreading the news.

Materials: We checked the auditorium upstairs and found plenty of chairs but only a few tables. Harry said we also need proper posting for certificate of occupancy.

### **Item 4: Next Meeting**

The next regular monthly meeting of the Pawlet Energy Group is scheduled for Monday, February 27, 2017, 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*