

# Town of Pawlet, Vermont

## Energy Group Meeting

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### Meeting Notes

**Date and Time:** Wednesday November 6, 2013 @ 12:00 noon

**Location:** Pawlet Town Hall

**Members in Attendance:** Sue LaPorte [sel53@vermontel.net](mailto:sel53@vermontel.net)  
Elizabeth Gibson [egib@vermontel.net](mailto:egib@vermontel.net)  
Harry Van Meter [hevanmeter@gmail.com](mailto:hevanmeter@gmail.com)  
Ken Friedman [kenneth.j.friedman@gmail.com](mailto:kenneth.j.friedman@gmail.com)

**Members Absent:** Cintia Morrissey (pt) [amiconst@gmail.com](mailto:amiconst@gmail.com)

**Others in Attendance**

**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, will take a lead role in 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.*

<u>Item</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>
13.11.01	Town Plan – energy Section revision for 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Group reviewed the 2010 Town Plan energy section;</li><li>2. Elizabeth suggested that we review the “Energy Planning &amp; Implementation Guidebook for Vermont Communities dated April 2011 jointly published by the Vermont Natural Resources Council and the</li></ol>	

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>
		<p>Vermont League of Cities &amp; Towns (the link sent to us by Elizabeth's email of Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> is <a href="http://vnrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Final-Guide-4-27-11.pdf">http://vnrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Final-Guide-4-27-11.pdf</a>);</p>	
3.		<p>Harry pointed to one of the reasons for preparing a Town Energy Plan on page 3 of the document:</p> <p>a. <b>“Local Influence Over Energy FacilitySiting:</b> In Vermont, electric generation and transmission facilities that are required to receive a Certificate of Public Good from the Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) – which includes any facility that is connected to the electrical grid – are exempt from regulation under municipal land use regulations, such as zoning bylaws. However, the PSB must consider the municipal plan in granting Certificates of Public Good, so having a clear plan is the principal tool for municipalities to influence the development of energy facilities”;</p>	
4.		<p>It was suggested that this quote be used in the text of the Plan;</p>	
5.		<p>It was suggested that the Group review this entire document and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting in December;</p>	HVM
6.		<p>Sue pointed to Section IV – Organizing the Energy Plan on page 13 and the sample Table of Contents on page 14;</p>	
7.		<p>Harry volunteered to call the Rutland Regional Planning Commission to find out what towns similar to Pawlet have good energy sections that the Group could review;</p>	
8.		<p>There was discussion about having a separate document, <i>Town of Pawlet Energy Plan</i>, with only a summary in the Town Plan</p>	

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>
		<p>– with decision that we will update the Town Plan Energy section for 2015, which may become the template for a separate document to be published at a later date.</p>	
13.11.02	Public Energy Survey	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. It was suggested that the Group conduct a survey of residents to get statistics on:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Fuel use,</li><li>b. Age of houses and other energy using structures,</li><li>c. Number of people living in a house,</li><li>d. Sources used to purchase energy,</li><li>e. Etc.</li></ol></li><li>2. It was suggested that the US Census for 2010 be used to get household profiles;</li><li>3. It was asked how many households we need information from to get a statically valid profile.</li></ol>	
13.11.03	Emergency Heating Fund	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Elizabeth said that she will put the word out in the Newsletter about the local emergency heating fund before the colder weather sets in.</li></ol>	
13.11.04	Town Hall Weatherization	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The status of the weatherization program remains unchanged as the attic insulation still needs to be installed;</li><li>2. There is still a concern about the weight of blown-in insulation over the existing batt insulation putting pressure on the old lath &amp; plaster ceiling;</li><li>3. A pervious mesh membrane attached to the top of the attic joists was discussed as a means of isolating the insulation load;</li><li>4. The proposal needs the approval of the Select Board – it was not discussed whether this has been received.</li></ol>	
13.11.05	Monthly Programs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Harry has not yet called:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. the Larsen farm regarding roof-mounted solar panels,</li><li>b. Merck Forest farm regarding wind</li></ol></li></ol>	HVM

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>
13.11.06	PACE	turbines; c. The Wentworths of West Pawlet regarding geothermal for the monthly program schedule.	
13.11.07	Next meeting – focus to be on the <i>Energy Guidelines</i> to prepare an outline and table of contents for the Energy Plan	1. Elizabeth said that we need to get the Planning Commission and the Selectboard on board with the program to make any impact with the Town residents.  Wednesday December 4, 2013 @ 12:00 noon in the Pawlet Town Hall.	

Submitted by:

Harry Van Meter, Recording Secretary