



**Minutes for Town of Pawlet Energy Group  
Pawlet, VT  
Monday, October 24, 2016, 12:00 PM  
Town Hall Conference Room**

**Members Present:**

Elizabeth Gibson, [egib@vermontel.net](mailto:egib@vermontel.net)  
Nancy Morlino, [nancym259@aol.com](mailto:nancym259@aol.com)  
Ken Friedman, [kenneth.j.friedman@gmail.com](mailto:kenneth.j.friedman@gmail.com)  
Harry Van Meter, [hevanmeter@gmail.com](mailto:hevanmeter@gmail.com)

**Members Absent:**

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

**Audience:**

Frank Nelson, West 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 September 26, 2016 have been distributed and posted at the town website, <http://pawlet.vt.gov/town-offices/energy-group/>. There were no corrections.

**Item 2: Button Up Day, November 12, 2016**

Liam Fagan of the NeighborWorks HEAT Squad had contacted us about doing a “phone-a-thon” weatherization event at the beginning of November, sponsored by Efficiency Vermont. Since no one in the group had time to do this, Elizabeth told Liam that we would put the word out about Button Up Day via our town website and eNews bulletins and refer people to <http://buttonupvermont.org/november-12>.

**Item 3: Solar Proposal for Town Landfill**

Nancy and Elizabeth reported on the October 17 site visit with Mike McCarthy, a solar project consultant with SunCommon. SunCommon and Power Guru of Southern VT (who visited the site in August) agree that a 150 kW site is the optimum size for this installation, as it would: require about 1 acre, generate a significant amount of power, and be manageable in terms of permitting and construction (about 6-9 months from conception to start-up). A 1.6 MW array, such as proposed by CEDG, would, according to Mike, require about 15 acres – not a feasible size for this site.

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One concern is whether this site is subject to any wetlands regulations, and that would need to be determined early in the process to be sure that the VT Department of Environmental Conservation would sign off on the project. Also, because of the amount of exposed ledge, a ballasted system would be required.

Ken raised the issue of the decommissioning process, which would have to be addressed by any proposal for this project. Other considerations: maintenance agreement, ownership and financing arrangements.

Nancy said that we are waiting to get a written report back from SunCommon, based on Mike's business, and then we can begin to focus on drafting an RFP for the project.

Elizabeth mentioned that the representatives from Clean Energy Design had canceled their plans to attend the October 11 Select Board meeting.

### **Item 4: Solar Project at Mettawee Community School**

Nancy plans to attend the next UD 47 School Board meeting in early December for an update.

### **Item 5. New Business**

The group discussed its position on a potential carbon tax in Vermont. Elizabeth said that, based on presentations and discussions at the two annual VT Council on Rural Development conferences that she and Nancy had attended, the State is moving in this direction. We all agreed that we support the idea of a carbon tax but have concerns about how it would be implemented and which sectors of the population would be most impacted.

### **Item 6: Audience**

Frank Nelson alerted the group to a new process for converting water to ethyl alcohol that is in the very preliminary stages of development (lab-scale). Ken was skeptical.

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

The next regular monthly meeting of the Pawlet Energy Group is scheduled for Monday, November 28, 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*