

Minutes: 12-18-14
Craftsbury Energy Committee

Attending: Amelia Fritz, Kevin Gregoire, Kathy Stark, Lisa Sammet
Guest: Mary Westervelt from Hardwick Electric Dept.

Meeting commenced at 7:25 PM

1. Street Lighting

Discussion around the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and Efficiency Vermont which will help us as we proceed with looking at inventory and perhaps replacement with LED lights. By working with EVT there will be incentives of \$100 per light

An unofficial count by committee members of lights shows there are 6 in East Craftsbury, 9 to 10 on the Common (1 not working and 2 blinking) and 4 in the village (2 not working) which makes 19 total.

The Common lights are paid for by the Village Improvement Society.

In East Craftsbury and the village the person who lives next to the light pays. In East Craftsbury each resident takes a turn at paying the bill which is thought to be about \$50 per month.

There is a proposal to host an information session about street lighting perhaps before Town Meeting in 2015

From Mary: it is important for us to do research, schedule a meeting with the General Manager of Hardwick Electric, Michael Sullivan, Mary will also reach out to him. Also, reach out to the Hardwick Energy Action Resource Team (HEART) to see if Hardwick and Craftsbury can work together (maybe Greensboro, too)

Mary reported that she has heard of a program launched by VEIC (the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation-parent of Efficiency Vermont) called Low Commons to serve larger entities which have \$50,000 annual expenses on energy and water to become more efficient with their usage.

2. Beautification: Holiday decorations were put up on Nov 23. Will look for people to help with clean-up in March (mud season).

3. VECAN Conference Dec. 6

Attended by Kevin and Amelia.

- Amelia was one of the speakers for how our group ended up getting the Solar Tracker installed.
- Amelia attended a session on how Vermont can get to 90% renewable by 2050. Report is on the Public Service Board website
- Kevin attended session on zero waste regulations and one on community led residential solar campaign in Waterbury

4. Speaker Series 2015 at the Library at 7 PM(Wednesdays after the Community Supper at the United Church)

- Jan. 21: HEAT PUMPS (cold weather heat pumps), Kevin has contacted Paul Markowitz who suggested contacting some of the installers. Back up program idea: passive solar building design and/or architect Patrick Kane
- Feb 18: Vermont Electric Coop (VEC) on Community Net Metering
- March 18: Passive House Alliance with Chris West or Forum on Street Lighting

5. Discussion on recent problems with the solar tracker

Joint was replaced that had filled with water which was freezing and thawing. The part had a 10 year guarantee.

6. Tracker Shading

Since there were neighbors who objected to the topping of cedars which shade the tracker in winter months, it was decided that no pruning would be done. The shading affects the production only in December, January and early February which are low production months in any case.

7. Efficiency Vermont Conference: "Better Buildings By Design" on Feb. 4th and 5th will be attended by Kevin.

8. Two button-up walk-throughs still to be scheduled for Phyllis Harrington and Kathy Stark

9. Lisa and Amelia will meet early in January to write up the **Town Report article.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Lisa Sammet, Secretary