

**Town of Winhall - Energy Committee
Meeting Minutes for Monday, October 2, 2023**

PRESENT: Andrea Ameden; Mike Cole; Wiktor Wadolowski

ALSO: Scott Bushee (Town Facilities Manager)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm at Town Hall

PUBLIC COMMENTS: An email was received from Marcel Gisquet (Planning Commission) asking about the possible role of the Energy Committee in helping the town deal with public safety as it relates to fuel tanks located in flood hazard areas and river corridors. His email went further to say it would be helpful to know the homes in those areas and determine if the fuel tanks meet the applicable requirements for not floating away and creating a public hazard.

Committee members discussed, and expressed the view that since the Energy Committee is just getting started and does not yet have an established Mission Statement approved by the Selectboard, it is not yet able to determine what role it can and should play on the fuel tank public safety issue. However, all agreed it was an important topic, and that the committee would help Town officials and departments as requested in addressing it.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Before nominating and voting on officers, Cole proposed that the committee first discuss terms for officers, specifically the idea of having rotating officers rather than fixed officers. Cole explained that the benefit to the committee of rotating officers would be in establishing shared leadership among the committee members and create increased continuity and inertia for the committee long-term. Cole further said that in discussing the feasibility of rotating officers with Lissa Stark (Town Administrator), he learned that officer terms are not necessarily fixed, and that if the committee wishes it could hold new officer elections at the beginning of each meeting as long as it is published in advance in the public notice and agenda. After review, the Energy Committee voted to hold officer elections at the beginning of each meeting; *motion by Ameden; seconded by Wadolowski; unanimous*

DISCUSSION OF ESTABLISHING A MISSION STATEMENT:

Cole presented sample mission statements for energy committees in other Vermont towns (Manchester, Arlington, Stowe), and the committee discussed each. Cole will incorporate the comments from the discussion into a draft Mission Statement, for further discussion, changes, and committee action at the next meeting.

DISCUSSION OF MUNICIPAL ENERGY RESILIENCE PROGRAM (MERP) GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR TOWN OF WINHALL:

Cole discussed the October 31, 2023 deadline dates for applications to be submitted for the MERP Level 2 Municipal Energy Audit Grant, and the MERP Community Capacity-Building “Mini-Grant”. To ensure these deadline dates are met, the Energy Committee needs to ask the Selectboard at its October 18, 2023 meeting to direct the Town Administrator to complete the applications for each, with the Energy Committee available to help in any way needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.