

Orford Energy Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
October 13th, 2015
7:00
Orford Town Offices

Present: Allyson Samuel, Emily Bryant, Ted Cooley, Anne Duncan Cooley, John Miller, Mark Blanchard and Robb Day.

Emily opened the meeting by introducing Allyson from Next Gen Upper Valley. Allyson described the group as a non profit organizational group. Their goal is to get folks talking about regional and global environmental issues. Currently they are working on raising the cap on Net Metering and discussing the proposed Lebanon liquefied natural gas plant project. Emily and Allyson described Net Metering and lead a discussion on three electrical companies in our area; Eversource, Liberty and the NH COOP and their policies on Net Metering.

Ted mentioned Maggie Stoudnover, the new Rivendell Trails Coordinator at Rivendell Interstate School District, would be a good contact to have in the Orford schools for Allyson to call on.

Allyson expressed interest in our group and Emily described the agenda. The September Minutes were read and a few typos were pointed out. After agreeing on these changes, the minutes were accepted and all were in favor.

Emily discussed new members to the Committee and invited John Miller and Mark Blanchard to attend. Robb will touch base with Jordan Sutherlin.

Anne discussed grant funding sources with Nate Miller from UVLSRPC. It was determined that the net income of Orford is too high to be eligible for Rural Development Grant. Nate agreed to check into other sources.

Car pooling and other ideas Emily agreed to look into for our November Meeting. Ted will research a E-newsletter for the group. Anne felt we could copy another group's template such as SERG or the Jaffery Energy Committee.

The Town Website Energy Committee Page is blank and Anne, Ted and Emily agreed to work on this. Robb suggested putting our Town Hall Energy Audit and the Town Energy Report on the page. Ted suggested pictures from our Button Up Workshops. Anne and Emily brought up links to Ride Share programs.

Emily reported on her research for a heat pump workshop. Jake Merrin from Efficiency VT reported that we would need to team up with a VT institution as he is unable to present in NH and suggested contacting Paul Markowitz as a possible co-sponsor. Emily suggested attending seminars that are already happening in the Upper Valley. Robb suggested talking with Bradford, VT.

Allyson suggested Sarah Simonds. Anne suggested going to the Green Buildings Symposium on October 29th in Fairlee. Allyson mentioned that Kate Epton from the NH Sustainable Energy Association is very interested in heat pumps and she could ask her about seminars. All agreed that that was a good idea.

John expressed interest in Solar. He mentioned the Windsor Vt prison solar farm and how folks were concerned about the aesthetics of it. A short discussion was had.

Robb mentioned that the Rivendell Academy roof would be a great place for solar. Anne suggested teaming with Rivendell, a Vermont school district, to have a heat pump seminar.

Robb brought up the question of energy needs at night. Mark suggested that Hydro was a good “battery” to be used when solar is unavailable. Mark also is very interested in keeping solar alive in Orford. An energy grid and source discussion was had were Mark and Robb discussed Energy Conservation and the extreme waste that occurs. Emily suggested an Energy Contest where folks can compare electric bills and win a prize for the most conservation. Mark suggested free or reduced cost Energy Audits for folks. Emily described her audit and how an even moderately efficient house may be disqualified for a free energy audit.

Emily and Ted agreed to work on the Town Website. Robb will write up minutes and send the corrected minutes to Sheri Clifford. Mark will talk to Sara Simonds regarding energy ideas. Allyson agreed to talk to Kate Epton. Ted will work on the Energy Committee Newsletter. John will contact the NH Electric Coop for energy audit information. Anne agreed to send a link to folks for the Vermont Green Buildings Symposium.

Meeting Adjourned. Minutes taken by Robb Day.