

# Strafford Energy Committee (SEC) Meeting Minutes

2/19/19

7:00 PM

Town Office meeting room

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<b>Meeting called by:</b>	Doc Bagley	<b>Type of meeting:</b>	SEC monthly meeting
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Doc Bagley	<b>Note taker:</b>	Jim

**Attendees:** Doc Bagley, Kevin Grady, Janet Cavanagh, Jim Schley

**Next Meeting:** Mar 12, 2019: Energy Committee meeting

## *Minutes*

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### Agenda items:

1. **Minutes:** from Jan. 8th meeting approved.

2. **Enhanced Energy Plan.**

We met on January 19 to review the draft Enhanced Energy Plan section by section in preparation for presentation to the Planning Commission. This takes time but is valuable: clarifies wording and helps us prepare for presenting to town boards.

Janet read list of reasons sent by Dee Gish of TRORC why we benefit from an Enhanced Energy Plan:

1. Comprehensive process of evaluation results in improved understanding of how energy use is related to land use and transportation. 2. Towns with an Enhanced Energy Plan will receive "substantial deference" in Section 248 renewable energy permitting proceedings. 3. Designating preferred areas for siting renewable energy gives a clearer direction to potential developers and may help speed up siting.

But does the map we've created restrict where renewables can be deployed, rather than facilitate expanded opportunities?

Kevin said he'd like to rewrite the whole Enhanced Energy Plan; if we don't feel we can take the time to do this as a group, he'd take the time to do this himself. But Doc made a case for staying with the format we've been provided by TRORC, since the other committees are familiar with their approach. And Janet said that if a lot of time is available, it would be better to spend time compiling data that shows savings from efficiency and weatherization and recycling, in order to show successes and benefits. One of our jobs is to tell this story.

**ACTION ITEM:** Doc will try and identify people (for instance Steve Willbanks and Kate Siepmann) with whom we could talk over how to present our plan to the other bodies.

Discussion about what our Committee's impact can be: Heating and transportation are the biggest energy impacts. Town buildings have had audits, but follow-through hasn't been consistent. Barrett Hall, by contrast, has steadily worked through a list of efficiency improvements, but that's the achievement of that organization's trustees.

Kevin suggested that we decide upon priorities (for instance: pellet boiler for the town office and the school) and create timelines and move step by step to completion.

3. **Button Up:** We're trying to follow up and see who has had their visits from contractors and been given a proposal.

**ACTION ITEM:** Doc will ask Leigh at Efficiency Vermont for an updated list of contractor visits and proposals. Once people have received a proposal, we should help them decide on priorities and plans.

**ACTION ITEM:** Jim will call Lee Funston and see if she's heard from contractor.

Kevin reported that Philip Mulligan is willing to do some free energy audits (blower-door test, etc) for local low-income people.

4. March 30: **Cabin Fever University tour of energy-efficient homes:** Susan Hodges and Tim \_\_\_, David Lutz and Cynthia Lewis homes, possibly also a Vermod house on Turnpike Road.

Ideas for future “tours” or field trips: Off-grid solar tour (Blue Moon Community has several examples close together); Steve Strong’s high-end solar home in Tunbridge.

5. Brief discussion of **FOOD and the agricultural sector’s energy impacts.** Maybe there’s a way to collaborate with Strafford Village Farm at one of their open-house evenings.

6. Doc submitted a budget request for the Energy Committee for \$250. It isn’t listed as an article. ACTION ITEM: Doc will ask Kate Seipmann if we need to do anything more to follow up.

7. Doc will go into the town office and update Energy Committee’s webpage after town meeting. He wants to add information about WindowDressers, Gus’s links, Stagecoach transport, other researches.

8. WindowDressers: Doc has been in touch with Bob Walker in Thetford and Dick Cadwgan (pronounced “Ca-doo-gan) about getting trained. Committee in Glover took a trailer over to Maine and picked up all the equipment needed. They did a card mailing to townspeople, then volunteers go out and measure windows, enter the dimensions and the program generates pricing.

9. New Thetford Community Solar update: Dori is in the process of preparing the application for a certificate of compliance. Norwich Technologies is buying the property: between Godfrey Road and interstate 91, about an acre; Janet described this as an excellent site, not controversial (not visible even in the winter) and required no big access road. When she’s ready, we can help publicize opportunity to participate.

Next **Strafford Energy Committee meeting: March 12: Town Clerk’s office**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Schley