



## Energy Committee

Town of Hinesburg  
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### Meeting Minutes - June 17, 2015

- Draft -

**Attendance:** Carrie Fenn, Ray Keller, John Pacht, Chuck Reiss, and Hannah Jackson

Meeting commenced at 7:15 p.m.

1. Review minutes from May 20th meeting. John made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed.
2. Discussion of interim zoning policy that was recently accepted unanimously by the planning commission. We discussed how we will draft a letter to the planning commission stating we support the interim zoning policy as it clearly focuses on conservation of our energy resources: water and the Laplatte River.

John will draft a letter and circulate it to the other committee members.

3. Discuss H. 40 bill Renewable Energy Standard and Energy Transformation (RESET) Program. Top three goals of program: grow the share of VT electricity consumption that comes from renewable energy sources, support new community scale distributed renewable generation projects, support additional distributed renewable generation or to support other projects to reduce fossil fuel consumed by their customers and the emission of greenhouse gases.
4. The new residential energy code went into effect in March 2015. There are no books readily available yet on the new energy code standards so it has been hard for builders to comply. Builders can only access the new requirements online at this time. Chuck will try to track down a code books from EVT and bring them to the next meeting for the committee to review.
5. Update on local development projects. Norris project has been approved. Haystack has been denied, but they are appealing in environmental court. Village Center Phase II has received sketch plan review and the NRG development is currently under sketch plan review. Norris is apparently applying for the state's Neighborhood Development Area Designation (NDA), which would ultimately eliminate the project from having to meet Act 250 requirements. See attached informational NDA brochure.
6. Discuss changes to prioritized goals in the energy section of the Town Plan. Everyone needs to look at the revision and get edits back to Chuck in the next day or two.

7. Natural gas discussion. Methane is a powerful natural greenhouse gas that is produced from cows, landfills, and natural materials breaking down, etc. You can burn off methane and convert it to CO<sub>2</sub>, which is a less potent green house gas, and/or you can clean it up and use it as a natural gas for thermal energy. Instead of releasing a potent greenhouse gas, methane can be captured, treated, and supplied to end users for heating purposes.
8. Chuck will see if Dotty Schnure, the spokesperson for Green Mountain Power, will come to our next meeting 7/15.
9. Meeting adjourned 9:10 p.m.

### **Agenda For 7/15 Meeting**

- Review minutes from previous meeting
- John will review the letter he will draft on interim zoning
- If Chuck can acquire one of the new residential energy code book, we will review changes in the new energy standards
- Ray will talk to Rocky to discuss how the town is dealing with the methane from the lagoons released from the town wastewater treatment plant. Ray will report back to the committee on what he finds out.
- Potentially meet with Dotty Schnure