



## Energy Committee

Town of Hinesburg  
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461  
802.482.2281 | hinesburg.org

**Meeting Date:** September 4, 2018, 7-9PM

**Location:** Town Hall – Planning Office

### Agenda:

1. Call to Order – Chuck 7:10 PM
2. Public Comment
3. Additions/ Deletions to Agenda
4. Discuss meeting minutes for Feb, March, and July; approve minutes
5. Act 174 work report-out by section owners and next steps
6. Revisit 2018 budget and discuss 2019 strategy and planning
  - a) Net Zero videos
  - b) Fall 2018 Workshop series
  - c) Municipal building efficiency
  - d) UVM Project
7. Video series from net zero workshops
8. Approve minutes from past meetings
9. Set agenda for Aug. 7th, 2018 meeting

### Minutes:

Attendees: Chuck Reiss, Mike Webb, Laura Capps, Bill Scott, Emily Nosse-Leirer and Alex Weinhagen

1. Call to Order – Chuck 7:15
2. Public Comment - None
3. Additions/ Deletions to Agenda
  - Bill added Button Up (under Fall 2018 Workshop series)
  - Chuck added UVM Project – tabled for Oct meeting
4. Discuss meeting minutes for Feb, March, and July; approve minutes
  - Dick will look for Feb and March minutes; Mike provided agenda for Feb
  - July minutes were reviewed and updated based on committee feedback. Chuck motioned to approve the minutes, Laura seconded the motion with the amendment that she will meet with Renea and so long as Renea has no substantive changes, the minutes would be finalized. All were in favor.
5. Act 174 work report-out by section owners and next steps
  - Emily and Alex joined the meeting.

- Substantial deference is a step up from
- Town plan is good for 8 years per the statute, but can be updated at any time
- The new draft chapter(s) will go to the Town Planning Commission for review and approval via Alex
- RPC will have time in October to help us with the planning process – waiting for finalization of contract
  - Deliverables for the Public Service Board from the RPC (assuming no contract changes):
    - Draft plans that are in a format that could be adopted by the town and that meet all of the requirements for municipal energy planning
      - In a format that are ready to be considered by the town – don't have to be approved yet, because RPC cannot control what the town accepts
    - What if RPC doesn't like the plan?
      - If it doesn't meet the standards/minimum qualifications then you don't get the substantial deference stamp
      - Keys for a good plan: strong policy language, i.e. standards that are worthy of having substantial deference; having policies that are restrictive to renewable energy are similar to the restrictions applied to other forms of development (i.e. not singling out renewables)
        - Solar screening by-laws are a potential tool for restricting large-scale solar installations in areas of aesthetic concerns
    - To what degree do you have to demonstrate the town's ability to meet the targets?
      - For generation, looking for a certain amount of unrestricted land so that sufficient land is available for developers to do wind and solar developments to meet the targets
- Emily Nosse-Leirer, Senior Planner at RPC; presentation on Act 174:
  - What's the source of LEAP model?
  - How were the solar and wind potential maps developed?
    - Wind maps were from windspeed models using NREL data
      - 30, 50 and 70 meters
      - Bill – concerns with discrepancy between the Town map and the state map for wind potential
        - Okay to request maps be based off the federal model and RPC will help assuming they can get the data set
    - Solar maps are based on solar insolation
    - Hydro sites were existing dams where there is potential capacity for more generation; no large-scale hydro generation was considered a feasible source
    - The maps are very rough, no one should look just at the map and assume it's a good location for that particular renewable

- Maps do not take into account 3 phase power
- How were the target goals established for the county/towns?
  - To set the county goal: Low goal is based on land area proportional with respect to the rest of the state; high is a combination an average of population and land area with respect to the rest of the state; (does assume increase in electricity use due to electrification); town goal was then set by the average of electricity use and population
  - 88-150 acres needed for total generation to be met by solar
  - 110-192 acres needed for total generation to be met by wind
- How do you plan to monitor/report on town progress?
  - Online scorecard reports regional statistics annually and we will incorporate actuals into that from a variety of sources such as, number of electric vehicle registrations; actual electrical data from VEC and GMP; natural gas use from VGS; VT energy dashboard)
  - Chuck – we could invest in the dashboard to get more real time feedback for town-driven improvements; Emily – I’m going to a meeting next week on reconfiguring the dashboard in light of Act 174; Alex – if what we use to create the goals could be what is ultimately updated, that would be helpful for consistency
- As we plan, can we do any trade-offs between goals? E.g. do less with renewables and more with residential weatherization?
  - Renewable energy generation is viewed as a burden to be shared among each municipality, and not to be traded down through increases in other efficiency measures.
- Town must map: preferred sites – some are already defined based on definition provided in the net metering rules (e.g. previously developed sites, parking lots, landfills, brownfields, gravel pits, quarries and Superfund sites), others may be defined by the town
  - Can be broad – e.g. all sites within x distance of 3 phase power, or specific, e.g. xyz parcels of land; can be a combination of both so that property owners can request to be preferred sites and be reviewed
  - Constraints: as defined by the State and CCRPC
  - Possible constraints: areas where renewable generation may be appropriate with/if additional measures applied
  - Assigning scale limitations is allowed (e.g. residential scales)
- Emily will send examples from other towns (Charlotte and Huntington); and county-level spreadsheets and methodology for setting targets – she has 50 hours for Hinesburg
- Emily will review and identify gaps – committee members to send her the gaps we’ve identified thus far by end of this week
- Emily will be back for Nov 6 meeting

6. Revisit 2018 budget and discuss 2019 strategy and planning – Bumped majority of discussion to next meeting.

- a) Net Zero videos
- b) Fall 2018 Workshop series/Button Up – Potential dates identified; Laura to confirm rooms at Town Hall and Speaker availability with Efficiency Vermont
- c) Municipal building efficiency – Mike motioned to add this to our goals when doing the budget and plan in November; including a recommendation to formalize the energy committee’s participation in the planning process for future building retrofits and new construction.

7. Video series from net zero workshops – delayed to next meeting

8. Approve minutes from past meetings

- Chuck motioned to approve the meetings, Bill second the motion and all were in favor.

9. Set agenda for Oct. 2, 2018 meeting

1. Call to Order 7:00 PM
2. Public Comment 7:05PM - 7:10PM
3. Additions/ Deletions to Agenda 7:10PM - 7:15PM
4. Discuss meeting minutes for Feb, March, and Sep; approve minutes 7:15PM - 7:25PM
5. Act 174 discussion 7:25PM – 8:35PM
6. Revisit 2018 budget and discuss 2019 strategy and planning 8:35PM-8:55PM
  - a) Net Zero videos
  - b) Fall 2018 Workshop series – Button Up
  - c) Municipal building efficiency
  - d) UVM Project
7. Video series from net zero workshops
8. Set agenda for Oct. 2th, 2018 meeting
9. Adjourn 9:00PM

Laura motioned to adjourn at 9:08 PM, Mike seconded, all were in favor.