

Town of Essex
Energy Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, December 14, 2022
7:00 PM – 81 Main Street, Essex Jct

Present: Will Dodge, Dottie Bergandahl, Daniel Parkins, Michael Fink, Natalee Braun (via video), David Skopin, Tom Yandow. Special guest (via Zoom): Greg Hurne;

NOTE: The minutes below represent an abbreviated version of the meeting. The meeting is available for viewing in its entirety on the Town of Essex – Official Channel on YouTube, using the following address: <https://youtu.be/Cobdh5iNTm0>

ADMINISTRATIVE

1. New member Daniel Parkins was introduced; individual members introduced themselves to Daniel; Tom Yandow's permanent membership was confirmed.
2. David Skopin provided documents to share based on past info sessions.
3. Minutes of 11/09/22: Approved by unanimous vote following changes.
4. Will recounted willingness of City of Essex to continue idea of a single committee covering town and city.
Action Item: MOU needed (talk to Selectboard after Town Meeting)
5. Use of Video: MS Teams was being used in order to be able to post to official channel.

SUBSTANTIVE

1. Jonathan Dowds. Jonathan Dows presented on the VT Renewable Energy Standard and the efforts on the part of Renewable Energy Vermont to solicit support for greater in-state renewables while addressing the climate crisis. **ACTION ITEM:** Ask for Jonathan's PPT to post on website; have Jonathan come back.
2. GHG Evaluation. Michael and Greg Hurne provided a summary of their work to

date and their plan to write a report in order to document their calculations. The team had a long discussion regarding industrial electrical uses and the problems with attempting to identify GHGs from industrial sectors of Essex.

3. Revolving Loan Fund: The Committee discussed best next steps regarding attempting to obtain funding that can be reused. Tom explained a plan to meet with Sarah Macy and Ann Janda. **ACTION ITEM:** Tom and Will to set up meeting in order to discuss the RLF in more depth.

4. Town Plan Subcommittee: Will provided a summary of the discussions with the Planning Commission subcommittee, and the plans for January to set up community discussions across Essex for input.
ACTION ITEM: One Essex Energy Committee member should attend the meetings in order to advance the current agenda in town planning.

5. Champlain Valley Fair / Costco Weatherization Effort. Dottie provided an update regarding the intent to provide info packets to Costco, as well as the discussion with Mr. Quinn regarding an energy committee presence and the need for substantial (105) volunteer hours.
ACTION ITEM: Daniel and Dottie to work on getting Efficiency VT and the regional energy committees involved (through Ann Janda) in order to have sufficient staff hours at the event, starting with letter to Ann Janda.

6. Municipal Energy Resilience Program. Will explained the purpose of the legislation (Act 172) and the VECAN seminar he attended. He explained that Essex is not likely to qualify for much funding because it is too urban (i.e., high tax revenue). Will explained that if the

assessment could be used for a new building, rather than old buildings, and that this could be useful if the Town is seriously thinking about a new municipal complex. **ACTION ITEM:** Continue to look more and potentially look to using the MERP as a matching fund to assist with assessments for new building. Will will also address Selectboard in a general update, with existing building focus on police building.

7. Follow-Ups and Updates. Will discussed the idea of inviting a climate group / legislative focused group come to Essex to give a talk, similar to what happened with VPIRG. **ACTION ITEMS:** Send invite to either 350.org or VPIRG.

Tom also provided an update on \$1,000 additional funding for the January budget for energy uses.

Motion to adjourn accepted.

Next Meeting: Wed., January 18, 2022 at 7:00 PM