

Town of Essex
Energy Committee
Minutes
20, April, 2023

7:00 PM – 81 Main Street, Essex Jct. and via MS Teams

Present: Will Dodge, Dottie Bergandahl, Daniel Parkins, Michael Fink, Natalee Braun David Skopin, Tom Yandow, Cassidy Shaw (Telephone)

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

ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Minutes of 3/16/2023 Approved Unanimously
2. Michael Fink is retiring from the EEC after 2 years of service.
3. There are possibly 1 or 2 persons interested in the vacancy.
- 4.

SUBSTANTIVE

1. Champlain Vally Fair Energy Exhibit:
Daniel presented the possibility of an energy exhibit to the CCRPC roundtable on 4/17/23. He also met with members of the Williston Energy Committee. The presentations were positively received. There was talk of not only having Button Up information but also handout about the Affordable Heat Act and other energy efficiency items. The main issue is to staff the booth for the full time of the fair. A sign up sheet has been created. The important thing is to fill this roster to be able to make a go/no go decision in May. There is a soft deadline of May first.
ACTION ITEM: All members of EEC should add their names to the roster. Daniel will monitor the spread sheet and give an update on May 1. Dottie will contact Mr. Quinn at CVE to confirm we are still working on this.

2. [Municipal Energy Resilience Grants.
Will and Tom Attended a meeting about these grants. Tom reported that there is

a need to hire a consultant to study the retrofit of the police station. It was thought that using the possible \$4,000 for a consultant rather than an Essex Energy Fair made sense. Another possibility is to improve the insulation in the attic of the Essex Free Library.

ACTION ITEM: Tom will start the application For a MERG grant for the police station work to present to the town selectboard.

3. Workplan Priorities for EEC with town selectboard

Daniel noticed that Essex Town is no longer listed with the municipalities with and Enhanced Energy Plan with CCRPC. It is important to have this corrected. The Vermont Utility Commission needs to be approached to change the mistake. [Text].

ACTION ITEM: Ask for a correction to 1 include Essex Town on the list of towns with an Enhanced Energy Plan.

4. Town Plan.

The committee discussed the energy policies we would recommend for the Town of Essex. Plus what technology advancements are being made in renewable energy. The Energy portion of Chapter 2 of the current town plan was studied and changes were suggested for 5.1 thru 5.6. New 5.7: New construction should be required to produce at least 50% of their energy needs. Also new 5.8: Asking for tree preservation efforts.

ACTION ITEM: The suggested changes will be reviewed by the committee for approval and submission to the town office.

5. Next Meeting
May 10 2023 at 7:00pm

Motion to adjourn made and accepted.

