

Town of Essex Energy Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, November 15, 2023
7:00 PM- 81 Main Street, Essex Jct. VT

Present: Will Dodge, Dottie Bergendahl, David Skopin, Tom Yandow, Natalee Braun
and Jonathan Dowds (via Zoom) of Renewable Energy Vermont. Meeting started at
7:02.

Administrative

A. Draft minutes from 10/25/2023: the minutes were approved.

B. Vacancy: The vacancy remains. Places to post the vacancy were discussed.

Will announced that he and Daniel have agreed that Daniel will be taking a short break from
Committee work.

Substantive

1. Legislative update: Jonathan Dowds made a presentation about the work to be done on
the Renewable Energy Standard in the coming year's legislature. There are two parts to
the work, setting the right goals and permitting reform. He emphasized the need to bring on line new
renewable energy sources with a goal of 60% new renewables in the future.

Action Items: Committee members should speak with our representative to encourage them to be active
in the process in Montpelier.

2. Follow-up from CVF Event and Preliminary Work for 2024: Will is working on this.

3. Annual Report Preparation: Will will write a report listing the committee's work at the
CVF, Out and About Essex, the Energy Coordinator job description, and the need for an
Enhanced Energy Plan for the town.

Action Items: Set up a time for the committee to present this at a select board meeting.

4. Status of Town Plan Work: Work is done, CCRPC has read it, and it is back with the
town planning commission.

Action Items: Check to make sure the committee's changes have not been changed.

5. Status of Energy Coordinator: Two page job description has been prepared. Little action
from the administration.

Action Items: Include in annual report. Send a copy to CCRPC.

6. Status of Green Lantern Outreach/ Solar Siting: Will has spoken with Dave Carpenter of
Green Lighting. There is a need to prepare an attractive plan to present to the land
donators to allow solar siting.

Action Items: Work on preparing the approach to the donors.

7. Reach out from Kent Johnson: No response at this time.

8. Charter Changes: Schedule for meetings in the New Year. The current charter is outdated
and a broader mission should be included.

9. Update on MERP: The State of Vermont DPS has put off to February. Looking for grant
money to pay consultants for the work at the police station, Memorial Hall and hopefully
the library attic.

10. Motion to adjourn at 8:18. Motion passes 5 – 0.

Next meeting Dec. 13 2023