

Essex Climate and Energy Committee Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2025

In attendance: Will Dodge, chair, Geetha Ganesan, Dootie Bergendahl, Katie Shattuck, Natalee Braun

ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. Draft Minutes from 02/12/2025 (No meeting held in March): approved unanimously
- B.
- C. Katie Shattuck! / Remaining Vacancies: Welcome Katie! One vacancy remains
Action Item: Continue outreach for an additional member

SUBSTANTIVE

- 1. Follow-Up From Topics Addressed at Monday March 17 Selectboard Meeting
 - a. Unsworth Parcel Opportunity / RFP:

Action Item - Set up a meeting with Karen Adams and other volunteers to discuss next steps on the RFP proposal. One significant point that emerged from Will's recent presentation at the SB is that we need to identify three potential consultants to offer input on the project and vendor applicants. Owners of the parcel might be willing to lift the restrictions on the parcel but will not be able to remove them. We hope to be able to make a case for the solar array on the property that meets the owners intent for the property.

Action Item: Consult with Colchester regarding the Unsworth parcel.

Action Item: Obtain a list of specific ideas on how the town could potentially use the funds; to be included in the RFP

- b. Colchester Net Metering Offset Opportunity / Net Metering Results:

Action Item: Request Shawn McNamara provide details to the committee on the energy usage at the police station. Once we have that information, we will reconvene with GMP to determine how best to use the 65% net metering credit

- c. Upper Main Street Complex Review (see [article](#); see [here](#) for webpage

Action Item: Follow up with the Essex Community Development. office to see whether Stantec is exploring a thermal energy network for the entire Upper Main Street Complex project.

- d. Energy Committee Revised Charter (see attached)

Action Item: Resubmit amended charter to the selectboard

- e. Debrief from Town Showcase & Soup Night

Action Item: Geetha will forward a table highlighting the "bean count" results related to energy saving options for the Upper Main Street Complex project (see below):

Must Haves for the Upper Main buildings (Public's wish list)	Votes	Other Comments from Public
Solar Panels	23	1. Orient buildings to south for passive solar 2. EV chargers at Libraries
Heat Pumps	18	
Geothermal	17	
LEED Certification	15	
Fast EV Charging	10	

f. Enhanced Energy Plan Discussion Resumption

Action Item: Speak with the Tree Farm managers about the possibility of installing charging infrastructure at the site as well as solar panels

Action Item: Inquire of Ann Janda if there have been any recent changes to the Enhanced Energy Plan and invite Ann and Katherine Sonnick to speak with the committee at our May or June meeting

g. VT Climate Action Plan Public Fora (link [here](#))

Action Item: Committee members are encouraged to attend one of the available sessions

h. EV Demo Project With GMP

Action Item: Geetha will contact GMP to find out if they're still doing their EV demo project

i. Champlain Valley Fair – Early Planning

Action Item: Dottie will craft an email to Efficiency VT to inquire about what materials they may have available for ButtonUp and whether they're able to assist with tabling at the Champlain Valley Fair

j. Other Business

Action Item: Keep an eye out for local newspapers that carry "green energy" news

Next meeting scheduled for May 14, 2025 (pending availability of Ann Janda and Katherine Sonnick)

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