



ESSEX ENERGY COMMITTEE

MINUTES, 08.13.2025

In attendance: Will Dodge, Natalee Braun, Katie Shattuck, Dottie Bergandahl, Geetha Ganeson, Rod Williams; special guest Lorraine Zaloom.

ADMINISTRATIVE

A. Approval of Minutes from 07/09/2025

The minutes were approved unanimously.

B. Appointment of Chair / Vice-Chair

The Committee appointed Will Dodge as Chair, and Dottie Bergandahl as Vice Chair.

C. Remaining Vacancies

The group briefly discussed the need to try to recruit a seventh member to reach full capacity.

SUBSTANTIVE

1. Champlain Valley Fair – Next Steps / Volunteers

The Essex Energy Committee discussed preparations for the Champlain Valley Fair event, including booth materials, scheduling, and volunteer coordination.

The Committee reviewed lessons learned from previous years and planned improvements, such as creating a script for volunteers, organizing QR codes, and increasing the visibility of the booth. The committee also discussed the need for name tags and other supplies, with Geetha agreeing to pick them up. A final working group meeting was scheduled for Friday, August 22, 2025 at 7pm to further discuss presentation materials and strategies.

Key Action Items (per the AI Summary):

- **Will:** Warn special meeting for Friday, August 22nd at 7 PM
- **Will and Members:** Work on creating a script with instructions for volunteers. Check Efficiency Vermont and Vermont Gas FAQ pages for script

development. Make clear that goal is to track metrics of meaningful conversations at the energy table

- **Will:** Work on the "make the case" document and signage for the table.
- **Will:** Check for old lawn signs and banners
- **Geetha:** Reach out to Green Mountain Power regarding energy credits and rebates
- **Geetha:** Purchase name tags and sharpies from Staples for the event, along with crayons and frames for information (e.g., Green News Time)
- **Geetha(?):** Contact Burlington Electric
- **Dottie:** Make photocopies of the coloring book for the energy table at UPS
- **Dottie:** Call Mr. Quinn about picking up 40 fair passes and parking permits
- **Natalee:** Retrieve CVOEO weatherization brochures and application forms
- **Natalee:** Mail passes to out-of-town volunteers once they're obtained
- **Natalee:** Review volunteer schedule and determine where to place David and herself to fill empty shifts
- **Natalee:** Coordinate with Henry Bonjus about using his posters at the booth
- **Natalee:** Check if she has the "Save Money" banner
- **Natalee:** Follow up with CVOEO
- **Natalee:** Contact Brad Cook about his availability for volunteer shifts
- **Katie:** Meet with Efficiency Vermont's Mary Catherine next week to collect handouts and freebies
- **Will:** Scan and print the state listings page from Green News Times
- **Rod:** Sign up for a volunteer shift
- **Energy Committee:** Consider vertical displays for QR codes
- **Energy Committee:** Create signage identifying participants as "Volunteer Energy Committees"
- **Dottie:** Gather materials left over from the fair for the Essex Town Community Day on September 20th

2. Public To Be Heard

Lorraine Zaloom provided some helpful information regarding the absence of standards for concrete and asphalt installation on Town streets and roads, which causes problems with vibrations for residences. The climate impacts of road installation and absence of standards for smooth roads was discussed. It was agreed that the Committee would look into this aspect of road / sidewalk standards in connection with the Energy Plan.

3. Other Business (Setting of Agenda for September Meeting)

No other business was brought before the Committee.

Next Meeting: **August 22, 2025 at 7:00pm.**