

# **Energy Committee Meeting Minutes**

**August 26, 2025**

In attendance Via Zoom: Jeff Dexter (Chair), Andrew McKeever, Scott and Colleen York, Lisa Maggio, Liz Miller, and Dixie Zen

Jeff called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

Dixie Zens was appointed Secretary to record the minutes of the meeting.

Jeff made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting of July 28, 2025 and Lisa seconded the motion. A unanimous vote accepted the minutes without revision.

A discussion was held concerning the posting of the minutes on the Town's Website, as they have not been posted since Feb, 2025. Dixie & Liz will check into this.

The MERP Grant for improving the energy efficiency of the Town Hall and Town Garage was discussed. The Selectboard, at the Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, approved the expenditure to evaluate the property around the Town Hall to determine if a ground-based Solar Array can be placed on the property. Jeff noted that it would be about 2 weeks or so to have this study completed. Jeff is going to talk the John Novelo who has offered to inspect the Steel Columns in the Town Garage.

After reviewing the study, a decision will be made as to how the array will be installed (ground based fixed or articulating, or roof mounted). Jeff offered to provide the pros and cons of these installations. Jeff's report 2 days after our meeting:

## **Roof Mounted Array:**

Pros: Out of ground view and human traffic, no animal or vegetation maintenance, excellent orientation to the sun, most common installation, and is partial protection for the roof. Cons: Requires structural evaluation, must be removed if the roof ever needs replacement.

## **Ground Based Arrays:**

- Pros: No structural evaluation needed, does not affect roof repair, Fixed arrays are the lowest cost of other ground bases arrays and equivalent to roof installation costs
- Cons:
- Vegetation Management: Trimming and/or mowing of weeds, grass and other plants
- Structural/Electrical: Annual inspection of the mounting structure, electrical system including the wiring, connections, inverters and the monitoring of the software
- Wildlife Management: Protection measures may be needed if animals/reptiles nest under the panels.

Estimated annual cost: \$450

- Single Axis Tracking Arrays cost 25% to 35% more than the fixed extending the pay-back period.
- Dual Axis Tracking Arrays are 40% to 50% more than the fixed extending the pay-back period to 20 years or more.
- Both Tracking Arrays would require additional maintenance

#### MERP Grant Priorities

Priority Order	Measure/Improvement	Typical Activities/Examples	Funding Rationale
1	Weatherization/Envelope	Air sealing, insulation, windows	Most cost-effective, for efficiency
2	Thermal Efficiency/Heat Pumps	Heat pump installation, HVAC upgrades	Major energy emissions savings,
3	Thermostats	Smart/programmable thermostat upgrades	Optimizes HVAC, adds savings
4	Solar Power	Solar PV installation	Renewable generation

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5	EV Chargers	Level 2 charging stations	Lower direct building impact

Jeff will revisit Solar Providers for updating their estimates for the Solar Installation after the determination of Ground Based or Roof Mounting.

Web Site Improvement: Liz will study the best way to upgrade our Web Site. It was agreed upon for the Energy Committee to remain an advisory committee for the Town.

Jeff suggested that our committee members sign up for shifts at the October Window Dressers event at the American Legion in Arlington. This can be done on the Website for Window Dressers.

Sunderland Shines next meetings are September 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Although the Sunderland Elementary School has offered their building for these meetings, Andrew suggested the Town Hall may be more convenient for all.

Dixie will continue to look into fuel savings by getting our current prices and compare them to the Fuel Club and Hilltop Energy quotes.

Jeff is going to report next meeting on information learned at the ZOOM Meeting for "Button Up Vermont", help on Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>.

VT Digger has an article about adult courses on Heat Pump Installation. Funding has been restored for EV Chargers in Vermont. Next Meeting for the Energy Committee will be via ZOOM on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM

Meeting was Adjourned and 7:53PM

Respectfully submitted, Dixie Zens 8/28/2025

