

Minutes
SUNDERLAND ENERGY COMMITTEE
(SEC) MEETING

Wednesday, January 28, 2026 - 7pm ZOOM

In Attendance: Jeff Dexter, Chairman, Dixie Zens, Andrew McKeever, Scott & Colleen York, and Lisa Maggio

1. The Meeting was Called to Order at 7:03 PM
2. Dixie Zens was Appointed Meeting Sec'ry to take Minutes.
2. Colleen made a motion to Accept Last Meeting's Minutes and Andrew seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote to accept with no revisions.
3. A Discussion on the Committee's slot opening was held. Jeff had talked with several folks who may be interested to join our committee in the future, but no one has volunteered to date. We will continue the search.
4. The update of the MERP Grant for Town Garage and Town Hall:
 1. Replacement of the "MAN DOORS" at the Town Garage have been quoted. 2 insulated steel doors with pre-hung door frames, hardware, painting and installation are quote at \$5500, which the committee deemed to be a good price for this part of the project.
 2. The Selectboard is waiting for an estimate to repair two steel beams in the town garage prior to updating the insulation.
 3. Jeff will ask the bidder if he will also estimate: 1. adding flashing to the roof over the east door at the town garage as water leaks down onto the current door handle and 2. repair the door seals at the bottom of the overhead doors which is peeling away from the doors
 4. An estimate of \$500 was received to upgrade the weather sealing for the Town Hall doors.
 5. Committee members will solicit quotes from possible contractors for Heat Pumps and Solar installation.
 6. Dixie will contact Green Mountain for their opinion on Roof vs Ground base Solar Installations. Also he will inquire if the may be any credits for Municipalities on Heat Pump and Solar installations.
5. Website upgrades were discussed. Each member of the committee will check other small town Energy Committees' Website and present the better ones found that may apply for Sunderland.
6. The energy committees from Arlington, Bennington, Manchester, Sunderland and possibly Shaftsbury have agreed to submit and "Energy Article" once a month to the Bennington Banner/Journal to help inform folks of new or other energy savings ideas. The towns will submit their articles on a rotation schedule so each will submit theirs every 4 moths (or 5 if Shaftsbury joins in). Andrew has volunteered to submit the first for Sunderland. Each article should be 600 – 800 words with no pictures.
7. The Planning Commission is still in progress in updating the "Town Plan"

8. Jeff asked the committee members to think up other future projects that may be helpful or interesting for our committee to pursue.
9. The committee agreed to invite Kathleen James, Seth Bongratz, and/or Dave Durfee to give us an update on the energy projects the state is pursuing. There seems to be an interest in Nuclear Plants for generating electricity.
10. Jeff will deliver a report at Town Meeting in March on the accomplishments and goals of the energy committee.
11. Next Energy Committee Meeting will be February 25, 2026 at 7 PM via ZOOM.
12. Meeting was adjourned at 8:18PM

Respectfully submitted,
Dixie Zens