

SUNDERLAND ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2026

Attending: Jeff Dexter, Dixie Zens, Andrew McKeever, Colleen York, Scott York, Lisa Maggio

AGENDA:

- Call to Order
- Appoint Meeting Sec'ry to take Minutes
- Accept Last Meeting's Minutes

- Discuss update re MERP Grant for Town Garage and Town Hall
- Discuss website improvement role (i.e. MERP Mini-Grant \$\$)
- Discuss Banner/Journal column
- Green Up Day
- Future Projects?
- New/other business
- Set next month's meeting date/time
- Adjourn meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Jeff Dexter. Meeting was held virtually on Zoom. Andrew McKeever was named as recording secretary for the meeting.

Jeff moved and Dixie seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on Feb. 25, 2026. They were approved unanimously.

The status of the work on the town garage and the MERP grant were discussed. At the previous night's selectboard meeting, Kelly Harrington of Centerline was anticipated to be there, but was not available. Callie Fishburn from BCRC was and discussed the the roof repairs and other work that was needed to be done.

Work on the garage doors has been done, as has work on the small roof over the doorway entrance. The door seal-ip work at Town Hall has also been completed.

Mike Pugliese, a new select board member went to the garage on Tuesday with EC member Dixie Zens to look it over. He agreed that taking the siding off the outside was the way to go to, to insulate inside. He also thought instead of welding plates on any rusted columns (especially the one in the back), to take some four by fours, bolting them right to the existing columns and go underneath that main beam or the main rafters.

Other electrical work was discussed. Some potential contractors have not responded to the initial outreach. Work on the progress of replacing the fluorescent lights with LED lights at town hall was discussed, mainly the number of bulbs needed and their estimated cost. Jeff to contact Doug Grossman (Magic Electric Co in Shaftsbury) for an estimate.

More information is needed on the extent of the work to repair the roof at the town garage. Hopefully Kelly Harrington will be able to supply more information on that at the next select board meeting.

Website improvement was discussed. Other town's websites have been studied. But our existing website is pretty good in comparison to other comparable towns. It was decided that every two to three months we would discuss possible improvements to the existing site we have. And be active on

Front Porch Forum or other media to inform local residents about the site, and share information about what other energy committees are doing.

Jeff has written a column for the local newspapers to start a series with other local energy committees. There will be four committees involved —ours, Manchester, Arlington, and Bennington. We will each write one monthly on a “once every 5 months” basis. Our Committee’s column (the first one to be published in this new series) was discussed and approved. It has been sent to the Bennington Banner for publication.

Green Up Day is coming on May 2. Plans and preparations were discussed. There had been discussion of having a town picnic in conjunction with it, but that will not be happening this year. Spreading the word about the day to recruit more volunteers for green up work was also discussed.

The next meeting of the windowdressers committee will be 8 am on March 31.

The idea of having someone on the select board as a liaison to the energy committee was discussed, but no decision made.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 22 at 7 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.