

Bennington Energy Committee
Minutes
November 11, 2017

Unapproved

Attendance: Molly Eppig, Peter Eppig, Peter Martel, David McKenzie, Mike Munhall

Meeting started at ~6:05.

We met earlier in the evening this month, as noticed, so the Peter E and David could attend a later meeting.

The Minutes from August 2, 2017 were approved as revised (see attached).

Mike asked if Peter M was able to get the minutes on the website. Peter couldn't recall without looking at email what transpired, but he will send this month's minutes to the office and Melissa Searles again directly.

We reviewed and updated the status of the LED Streetlight project. Peter M reported 2 bids have been received, one was Affinity, the other was sealed. We are not sure when the BOS expect to open and consider them. There seems to be nothing more we can do.

Peter M shared a bit info regarding the Wapack Sustainability LED presentation at the LES Conference. He noted after researching the process in other towns, it typically took at least 2 years from when discussion began to completion. In some cities, the amount not saved each month added up to several thousands of dollars.

The committee has decided to pursue a solar farm type project. David, after attending the LES Conference, reported that we needed to collect 1 years worth electric data. He also shared financing information including (but not limited) to, warrant articles, loans, possibly through CDFA (rates as low as 2%), and "Smart Start," noting in some cases financing resulted in immediate reductions in budgets (ie the payments we more than offset by savings in energy costs).

Mike suggested a possibility of community members financing. This model already exists in the State; the solar panels on the Coop in Keene is an example.

Peter M shared info regarding his participation in the Certified Energy Manager program sponsored by Eversource, and also that the BOS approved his getting the Town's energy data into Portfolio Manager, which will result in at least a year's worth of electric usage.

David will inform the BOS of our intent to pursue solar possibilities, and perhaps getting an update into the next tax letter.

Our next meeting is on Dec 6th at 7pm.

We adjourned at 7pm

Respectfully submitted

Peter K. Martel

These minutes are unreviewed and unapproved. See future minutes for approval and any corrections.

Included: Approved Minutes from 08/02/17

Bennington Energy Committee
Minutes
August 02, 2017

Approved as modified on 11/01/17

Attendance: Peter Martel, David McKenzie, Mike Munhall
Guest: Cath Joly of Wapack Sustainability

Meeting started at ~7:05.

The Minutes from July 05, 2017 were approved as presented.

Peter indicated he had asked Dee for the draft selectmen minutes and she replied she did leave them in the conference room but we could not get in there as no one was around to let us in. Peter will get a copy to share with the committee.

Mike asked why the minutes for the Energy Committee weren't posted to the town's website. It was suggested we send a copy of the minutes to Dee as well as directly to Melissa Searles at her website admin address. Peter M said he would do this and confirm this process was OK.

Prior to the meeting David shared several documents via email (attached below). Based on his notes from the hearing, he reworked the numbers on various possibilities.

We discussed what to do going forward given the hearing. We still agree with using our original criteria with Peter M suggesting the selectman modify the criteria if they feel a change needs to be made rather than selecting individual lights based on individual opinions.

We acknowledge the selectmen are in a tough position but encourage them to use justifiable criteria. We also noted that the police chief toured the lights during the day instead of at night, where one can see the effect of the lights as well as which lights are not working.

We talked about specific lights:

- The cross walk lights, are indeed 180 watt LEDs, based on information from Eversource and NHDOT.
- #17 seemed as much a daytime issue, and was not going to be helped by lights, with lights making it worse as no lights makes it easier to see cars coming at night. This sentiment is true for many locations.
- #7, 8, and 24-27 are examples of lights hindering evening visibility of oncoming cars, and may make pedestrian safety worse.

- It seemed the main argument we heard related to #37 & 38 were subjective aesthetic reasons. Our reasons were primarily based on safety. Some folks have expressed aesthetic reasons for fewer lights.
- David said he would draft a letter to BOS best reflecting our position.

We adjourned at ~8:25.

Respectfully submitted

Peter K. Martel

These minutes are unreviewed and unapproved. See future minutes for approval and any corrections.

Included:

New tables reflecting costs and saving given different scenarios, provided by David M. Prior to our meeting

EXAMPLE #3: INSTALLATION OF 40 BULBS WITH LEDS

- Total Replacement Cost: $37 \times \$150.40 = \5564.80 + Installation of 3 new Luminaires
- Removal Cost of 9 Luminaires: $9 \times \$175$ (max) = \$1575
- Total Project Cost Estimate: $\$7139.80$ + Installation of 3 new Luminaires
- Electricity Annual Cost Savings: $2846.62 + 1282.32 - 3 \times \$84.26 = \$3876$
- With 50% Cost-Sharing Grant, Payback is Approximately One Year

Fixtures to be Replaced with LED: After Hearing 170726					
Number	MTH Watts	Annual Cost	LED Watts	Annual Cost	Annual Savings
2	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
3	100	\$196.67	40	\$84.28	\$112.39
4	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
6	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
7	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
8	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
9	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
10	100	\$196.67	40	\$84.28	\$112.39
11	100	\$196.67	40	\$84.28	\$112.39
12	175	\$226.47	40	\$84.28	\$142.19
13	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
14	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
15	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
16	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
17	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
19	100	\$196.67	40	\$84.28	\$112.39
21	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
23	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
25	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
26	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
27	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
29	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
31	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
32	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
33	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
35	175	\$226.47	40	\$84.28	\$142.19
36	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
37	100	\$196.67	40	\$84.28	\$112.39
38	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
39	100	\$196.67	40	\$84.28	\$112.39
40	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
42	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
43	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
44	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
45	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20
46	175	\$226.47	40	\$84.28	\$142.19

47	175	\$226.47	40	\$84.28	\$142.19	
48	70	\$142.48	40	\$84.28	\$58.20	To be added
50	0	\$0.00	40	\$84.28	-\$84.28	To be added
53	0	\$0.00	40	\$84.28	-\$84.28	To be added
Following does not exist and will not be added, but town i						
5	70	\$142.48	0	\$0.00	\$142.48	
		Total Annual Savings		\$2,846.62		
		Excluding Added Lights		\$2,956.98		

Fixtures to be Eliminated (Preliminary)			
Number	MTH Watts	Annual Savings	
1	70	\$142.48	
18	70	\$142.48	
20	70	\$142.48	
22	70	\$142.48	
24	70	\$142.48	
28	70	\$142.48	
30	70	\$142.48	
34	70	\$142.48	
41	70	\$142.48	
Total Annual Savings		\$1,282.32	

EXAMPLE #4: INSTALLATION OF 40 BULBS WITH LEDS

- Total Replacement Cost: $37 \times \$150.40 = \5564.80 +
Installation of 3 new Luminaires
- Electricity Annual Cost Savings: $\$2846.62 - 3 \times \84.26
 $= \$2593.84$
- With 50% Cost-Sharing Grant, Payback is
Approximately 15 Months