

Marshfield and Plainfield Energy and Climate Change committee

Monthly meeting minutes, August 7th

Old Schoolhouse Common, library upstairs

Committee members In attendance:

Nick Seifert, Wes Cate, Becky Wigg, Anne Miller

Members of the public in attendance:

Michael Cerulli Billingsley

August tentative agenda:

- Select a facilitator
- Public comment
- Announcements
- Agenda modification
- Approval of previous minutes
- Business
 - Town plan discussion - 10 minutes
 - Ice cream social details/discussion/tasks - 10 minutes
 - Plainfield updates - 10 minutes
- Draft agenda for next meeting

- Select a facilitator
 - Wes volunteered
- Public comment
 - Michael Cerulli Billingsley in attendance, would like some time to discuss hazard mitigation items.
 - Providing an update to the energy committee regarding actions going on with the Plainfield Hazard Mitigation Committee.
 - Michael attended a recent training and provided some information about information which should be in the Plainfield Hazard Mitigation Plan, and will be added. They will be adding hazmat spills, emergency dam release/failures, and severe winter storm with extended power outage.
 - Michael believes that Bobbi Brimblecomb is responsible for the local hazard response plan.
 - Nick asked for an update from Michael about what the selectboard had said about this. Anne knew a bit, which was that Bobbi had some information about this, but it did not sound like anyone was actively working on this.
 - Michael discussed a lot of details around the hazard that the Molly's Falls Reservoir poses to Marshfield, as well as Plainfield. The hazard is significant, and without a plan to respond this may endanger a large number of people in Marshfield.
 - Michael suggests that the Energy Committee discuss this with the Selectboard and advocate for being more proactive in this area.
 - Letter to the editor may help, or trying to draw focus to the issue using other media.
 - Michael will forward some information which will provide us with more information to speak in an informed way.
 - Michael asked if he could be added to the Marshfield energy committee list. Nick will check with John Morris about if this is OK, and get him added if so.
- Announcements
 - No announcements.
- Agenda modifications
 - Add discussion in business about open meeting law
- Approval of previous minutes
 - Motioned to approve and approved.
- Business:
 - Ice cream social

- Anne is suggesting August 17th for the ice cream social. No other committee meetings that night, so should be available for some/all of those committee members to attend. 6:30pm, at the OSC.
 - Anne spoke with Strafford Organic Creamery about ice cream. Can buy 3 gallons for \$50. If there are 20 people or more there is likely to be plenty of ice cream, and it will be cheaper.
 - The purpose of the ice cream social is to discuss ideas about their vision, hopes, and ideas for the short, medium and long term future of Marshfield.
 - Anne made a poster for it, and has some text to post to Front Porch Forum.
 - Nick will post to front porch forum.
 - Needs to be warned as a meeting.
 - Anne would like to have note taking. The structure of the discussion is a bit up in the air, but likely trying to limit to 10 people per group.
 - Anne will write some prompts to spark conversation.
 - Nick will talk to Melissa and invite the Planning commission to come.
 - Anne will talk to Bobbi about inviting the other commissions.
 - If committee members can arrive around 6:00pm that would be helpful to do some setup, getting dishes, etc.
 - Having some help to clean up would be wonderful, if people are able to stick around.
 - Town plan update
 - The subcommittee that was meeting to discuss act 174 and the town plan has reached a few conclusions about this:
 - The Act 174 work is still in the very early stages at the regional level. No example information is available yet from CVRPC or elsewhere. This will be available somewhat soon, but not yet. It would help save time to wait for these updates.
 - The Planning commission wants to update the town plan ASAP. This timeline is not agreeable with the Act 174 update, so the suggestion is to decouple these things. The EC will update the energy section of the town plan immediately to help the PC, and work on the Act 174 energy plan when other training and documentation is available.
 - More work to come on this. Planning to follow up at least monthly to see if there is new information enough to proceed, or not.
 - Suggested meeting on 8/21 to discuss the town plan. Possibly revise in time, have a final draft maybe? For the september Energy Committee meeting.
 - Plainfield update
 - Ed discussed the town hall renovation a bit. Some discussion ongoing about what permission was and wasn't given.
 - Open meeting law
 - Wes attended, and summarized some key points:
 - Any time enough members to form a quorum of any town committee are together, and are discussing committee items, this must be warned or you are in violation of public meeting laws.
 - Any online discussion related to committee business must be conducted 1-on-1 to avoid creating a quorum, and warning the meeting.
 - With online document editing it should be limited to a number of people fewer than a quorum. E.g. if four is a quorum, three could be allowed to edit a document.
- Draft agenda for September
 - Select a facilitator
 - Public comment
 - Announcements
 - Agenda modification
 - Approval of previous minutes
 - Business
 - Town plan discussion
 - Act 174 discussion (if needed)
 - Ice cream social debrief
 - Discuss Energy Committee presenting to the selectboard information from Michael Cerulli Billingsley and the hazard mitigation information related to the dam/reservoir.
 - Plainfield updates
 - Draft agenda for next meeting