

Marshfield and Plainfield Energy and Climate Change committee
Monthly meeting minutes, June 3rd, 2019, 7:00pm
Upstairs library area

Committee members in attendance: Nick Seifert, Anne Miller, Becky Wigg, Wes Cate

Members of the public in attendance: Michael Billingsly, Jonathan Williams

- Select a facilitator
 - Anne volunteered
- Public comment
- Announcements
 - Michael announced on Saturday June 22nd there is an event on climate and weather. Roger Hill will present his analysis about weather in VT over the last 2 years. Michael will discuss atlantic currents, and how those have been changing. Also a lead author of the 4th national climate assessment will talk, Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux. 20+ minute Q&A and discussion. 10:00am until 12:30pm at the Plainfield Opera House.
- Approval of previous minutes
 - Moved and seconded.
- Business
 - Act 174 update
 - Jonathan discussed the difficulty of incorporating the Act 174 document that the Energy Committee had drafted into the town plan. Their last revision took 18 months start to finish to complete.
 - Their intent is to formally declare as a committee the intent to incorporate the language the Energy Committee adopted. They have a lot on their plate at the moment, but intend that this would be incorporated well before the 8-year statutory requirement.
 - Nick will reach out to CVRPC and see what they think about modifying our Act 174 plan to tie more closely to the current town plan. Nick will CC Jonathan on this email so he is aware of their feedback, and can chime in where needed.
 - Marshfield dam discussion
 - Michael presented a summary of what has been going on the last 6-8 weeks or so.
 - The Plainfield Hazard Mitigation committee has taken responsibility for drafting a letter related to construction on the Molly's Fall's dam. This has been delayed, but Michael intends to compose a draft, and may need to submit this to the PUC case himself.
 - Michael indicated that the questions from the ANR seem to be keeping pressure on GMP to not conduct any construction. ANR has responded with a large number of questions which are requiring GMP to be specific about their claims about the dam.
 - Michael indicated that there is currently no construction equipment at the dam, and the reservoir is at recreation levels, not the level needed to do work.

- Michael believes that GMP is taking this PUC case very seriously. The PUC is relying on an independent expert to evaluate the testimony provided by both sides in the case.
- Overall Michael feels positive that the PUC case is being pushed towards a positive conclusion for dam safety, and the other concerns raised in this case.
- Nick asked about any milestones that we can expect.
 - The case is now in the “sur rebuttals” phase, where rebuttals to GMP’s answers can be questioned further. GMP will get another chance to respond to those.
 - The PUC’s independent expert may require a 6-month review period for all evidence.
 - Currently there is a hearing scheduled for late August, but this may move.
- Model communities program update
 - No updates.
 - Next meeting is on 6/20 at 6:30pm for the “task forces” to get together.
- Update on book/video purchases (if needed)
 - Not needed.
- Plainfield update
 - No one from Plainfield in attendance.
- Draft agenda for next meeting
 - Select a facilitator
 - Public comment
 - Announcements
 - Approval of previous minutes
 - Business
 - EV Charging Station Grant (if needed)
 - Act 174 update (if needed)
 - Marshfield dam discussion (if needed)
 - Model communities / RAMP program update
 - Update on book/video purchases (if needed)
 - Discussion about what to do at the Fall Foliage Festival
 - Plainfield update
 - Draft agenda for next meeting