

Marshfield and Plainfield Energy and Climate Change committee
Monthly meeting minutes, October 7th, 2019, 7:00pm
Upstairs library area

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

Members of the public in attendance: Ed Hutchinson, Bob Atchinson, Michael Cerulli Billingsly

- Select a facilitator
 - Nick volunteered
- Public comment
 - None
- Announcements
 - Bob announced the Extinction Rebellion on the 17-19th of October on the state house lawn. This is an unpermitted event, so arrests are possible. Looking for anyone who has a large canopy tent, let Bob know.
 - Bob also announced a new book called "Shut it Down", which he recommends.
 - Michael Mann is speaking at UVM on 10/10 4:30-5:30 at the UVM Chapel.
 - Wednesday at 7:00pm is the wood heat workshop.
- Approval of previous minutes
 - Motioned and approved.
- Business
 - Marshfield dam discussion
 - Becky has been corresponding with the selectboard. They were not in favor of the request to add Washington West to the call list for a dam emergency to remotely sound the alarm at the fire station. There was also some confusion around the capabilities of the existing system. Becky spoke with Will Schwartz on 10/7, who says the siren is out of order at the moment, but that the fire department does have a warning system. Will indicated that if people of the village hear the alarm, they should call the fire station for details. This is problematic for a number of reasons, including the fire station being in the path of the floodwaters, the fire station only having one phone line, first responders need to be out and evacuating people, etc.
 - Michael believes that the above system may be close to adequate, if the people of Marshfield are aware of what the siren pattern is, and what that means to do. This is because it is likely that GMP would be aware of the imminent failure at least an hour before the failure, and would sound the alarm then.
 - Becky had reached out to Tom McClay to find out the procedure in the event of a dam emergency. Tom indicated generally what had been stated by Will, and also that the town clerk has an emergency notification system which can be used to send alerts for this. Bobbi indicated that they don't use this very often, so this may take a while to actually send anything.
 - Becky and Michael will discuss next steps. Becky will likely go back to the selectboard with this, but needs to decide what.
 - There were a couple suggestions to find out what is needed to make the siren remotely able to be activated.
 - Michael also mentioned that Tom McClay has asked him to create a flood map which can be used to help with the evacuation.
 - More to come on this.
 - Regarding the PUC case
 - Michael re-submitted all items that had been previously submitted at the request of the hearing officer. Michael took this opportunity to add editorial information to each of the items filed. No objections were raised to these submissions. GMP did the same, and no objections there.
 - There was a new schedule issued on 9/30. There is a deadline for the independent engineer to submit questions by 10/15. There is a deadline to answer these questions which is 10/29. They file their report on 11/12. GMP will get a chance to request live rebuttal / testimony. There will then be one more chance to file rebuttal after this on 11/19. There will be an evidentiary hearing on 12/6. Post hearing briefs are on 12/20, and proposed finding of fact. Decision circulated by 1/20, with public comment allowed for 10 days afterwards.

- Michael feels that opportunities to slow down GMP and/or change their plans are running out. He is not sure about the neutrality of the independent engineers.
- This CPG process seems like the only opportunity to force GMP to comply with safety concerns, because the dam was constructed prior to required safety regulations. If the CPG is issued, there is no incentive for them to complete the safety issues. Depending on the outcome of some of this, Michael does have contingency plans. More to come on these at a later date.
- Model communities / RAMP program update
 - Wood heat workshop on Wednesday. Button up will be introduced, and discussion about available incentives.
 - Twinfield is ongoing, no major updates at this time. Should be some updates at the November meeting.
 - The next energy task force meeting is on 10/23 at 6:00pm.
 - Michael gave a brief update from the Village Corridor task force:
 - There are several subgroups in this task force who were working on figuring out what was involved in the corridor, and what opportunities might be involved there. One area of strong interest is in resource mapping and promotion. The members of this team have dwindled a bit to just Rich Baker and Michael Cerulli Billingsly. There is some question about if they have enough volunteer “power” to create this directory.
 - Next corridor meeting is on 10/17 6:00pm
 - Transportation updates:
 - Working on a leaflet that discusses the various transportation options available in the area. This will be “launching” soon.
 - The VTRANS app is now released. The app works for GMTA, but not the red busses.
 - Next meeting 11/7 at 6:30 in Plainfield.
- Discussion about what to do at the Fall Foliage Festival (if needed)
 - Anne and Bob were tabling there. There were also a couple people from Efficiency VT giving away packages of goodies. There wasn’t a ton of visitors to the RAMP table. A few people were very interested and will probably be at the workshop.
 - Bob said there were 5 EVs, and they did give folks a couple rides. Not a lot of takers.
- VECAN conference
 - Conference is on 12/7 this year.
 - Anne is going to check if the Energy Committee has budget still to pay for attendance.
- Plainfield update
 - Plainfield Town Hall had another energy walk-through, a few tasks and opportunities remain. Bob’s next step is to check if the funds are still available.
 - Bob also did a walk-through at the Plainfield Coop. There are numerous opportunities there as well.
 - The municipal building needs a follow-up after it had its energy audit. Some work is needed there, though not a lot.
 - There is money available for weatherization in small businesses.
 - Plainfield is participating in Button-Up. More work needed here to understand what is next.
- Draft agenda for next meeting
 - Select a facilitator
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 - Marshfield dam discussion (if needed)
 - Model communities / RAMP program update
 - VECAN attendance/update
 - Plainfield update
 - Draft agenda for next meeting