

*Approved 8/11/2021*

Minutes of Energy Committee Meeting Wed. March 10, 2021 Via: Google Meet

Present: Conrad Liebenow, Renee Schmidt, Matt Stowell, Tim Walter, Judy Williams  
Peter La Pointe (liaison from the Building Committee)

The meeting convened at 7:06 P.M and the Feb. minutes were approved with the following corrections: Peter “I prefer a solution even though it includes an increase in cost.”

The Energy Committee will defer to the Building Committee as to where they want to utilize energy savings. Brian Sullivan from DOER expects that the buildings with the most energy use, for example, the Hallock Building and Highway Garage should be considered. ECMs, not low carbon solutions, are now the DOER priorities. The goal for the town is 20% less energy use with the acceptance of 15% on certain ECMs, such as, less idling on town vehicles. Peter, “I am hopeful for insulation on the highway garage roof.” Conrad, “Propane infrared heaters could be used at the highway garage or safety complex.”

On Feb. 26 representatives from Eversource visited the Town Hall and the Hallock Building to evaluate energy conservation measures. Potential ECMs at the town hall would be to insulate the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor ceiling and walls. At Hallock Hall the increase savings in energy costs will only be 5% Eversource will submit a contract that will itemize the costs of the ECMs.

Matt, “What will heat the basement at Hallock Hall?” Peter, “A fan from the heat exchanger will be adequate for the basement”. The oil furnaces can be removed at Hallock Hall as they are outliving their usefulness.

Recently there was a severe ice damming issue at Hathaway Hall which may create an energy saving opportunity.

Peter stated that the town's contract for next year's oil must be signed soon. He asked if the town should consider switching to propane. Renee, “Absolutely not, because propane has 30% less BTUs than oil and the difference in cost would make it a wash.

Conrad will meet with John Gates, president of HBAC, heating and air conditioning company from Turners Falls on March 15 to evaluate energy savings to Town Hall and the Hallock Building. They would be an alternative to Eversource but they would have to go out to bid.

What are the pros and cons of replacing the oil units at Town Hall? Multiple zones give us much more flexibility in heating. Improvements in heat pumps enable them to keep a steady temperature at temperatures as low as -15 degrees. An estimate of 4 units would be needed at the Town Hall. The Town Hall does not need electrical upgrades but the Hallock Building may need them.

Conrad shared three in-depth summaries of energy savings for town buildings from 2015 -2020 which raised many relevant questions. Hopefully they will be attached to these minutes after they are approved.

At 8:35 P.M. a motion was made by Renee and seconded by Conrad to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Williams