

*Approved with corrections 03/10/2021*

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

Present: Conrad Liebenow, Renee Schmidt, Matt Stowell, Tim Walter, Judy Williams, Peter LaPointe (liason from building committee)

The meeting convened at 7:08 PM. Tim Walter expressed his concern at the lack of support for solar installation on the state level. He plans to contact Plainfield's state representative, Natalie Blais, to urge her to support solar energy. The current emphasis on a state level for the expenditure of energy grant money is for ECM's (energy conservation measures), such as heat pumps. Matt, "Is there enough money for solar and heat pumps?" Tim, "There is \$115,000. Heat pumps are not guaranteed to save the town money.

Peter, "I prefer a solution eliminating oil usage even though it results in an increase in cost." A discussion ensued on the capacity of the substation on North Central St. Matt said that Eversource had just increased the power on North Central and on 116 as far as 258 East Main St. Peter, "The Town Hall is the priority for heat pumps. The interior units would be wall mounted and the exterior units would be on the ground. The building committee would like to get rid of the present oil tank which collects sludge and the enclosure for the tank is about to fall down. We would, also, like to insulate the basement and walls of the town hall more efficiently. Renee suggested that the control of the heat in the town hall could be done by zones and remotely. Peter emphasized that the sooner the heat pumps are installed, the better, as the removal of the oil tank and the insulation would not take place until the summer. Perhaps money allotted to the town for health and safety could be used for the basement work at the town hall. The building committee has someone coming to inspect the town offices and town hall on Monday, Feb. 15. The consensus of the members of the Energy Committee was to move forward with heat pumps at the town hall. A motion was made by Judy and seconded by Rene to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51.