

Strafford Energy Committee Minutes

Tuesday January 21, 7:30 pm, Upstairs Town Clerks

Present: Ken Alton, Dori Wolfe, Barbara Smith and Janet Cavanagh

Absent: Gus Speth, Lee Vormelker, Stephen Willbanks and Wally Smith

- 1) Minutes from 12/17 meeting were approved
- 2) Dori Wolfe has resigned as chair and Ken Alton is the new acting chair. Janet Cavanagh remains secretary.
- 3) Solarize Strafford – update from Dori; and information about a Winter Warmth series in Thetford March 9 – to kick off Solarize program.
- 4) We decided to support the gathering of signatures to bring before the town at town meeting the following petition.

PETITION TO KEEP VERMONT TAR SANDS FREE

We the undersigned voters of Strafford, VT request that the Select Board warn the following resolution as an article for the 2014 Town Meeting:

Whereas the oil industry appears to be planning to use an aging pipeline, built in the 1950s, to transport Canadian tar sands through Vermont to Portland, Maine for export. Extracting and processing tar sands oil cause great environmental damage, and tar sands oil is more likely to cause the pipeline to leak.

Therefore, be it resolved:

That the town expresses its opposition to the transport of tar sands oil through Vermont and calls upon the Vermont legislature and U.S. Congress to ensure thorough environmental impact reviews of any tar sands oil pipeline proposals.

The town shall send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Congressional delegation and the Speaker of the Vermont House, the Vermont Senate Pro Tem and Governor.

- 4) Community Orchard, Barbara and Janet agreed to move ahead on this, as land by the ballfield which is designated recreational has been considered if a planting plan is approved.
 - 5) We have at least 4 people are interested in [Powering A Bright Future](#), with the timing still to be determined.
 - 6) Financing Efficiency Improvements: Still to determine what are goals are for the town, as grants are available and for individuals. We determined to let people know about PACE and VSECU. This credit union has been very responsive to energy efficiency loan requests. If PACE doesn't meet your needs, VSECU just might.
 - 7) Energy Corner – February topic – Solarize Strafford
 - 8) United Church of Strafford “Green Ball” March 22 - SEC would like to support this project with a display. Dori will be applying for a seed grant from New England grass roots environmental fund.
 - 9) Vermont Home Energy Challenge winding down – On going - share with those who might qualify – funds still available for FREE weatherization and appliance upgrades through CVCAC.
 - 10) Elizabeth Mine Solar Array. Good news as Green Mtn power is planning on upgrading their line to Strafford to 3 phase power by 2015. Jim Masland did write a letter of support.
 - 11) Town/School Solar Array and/or Community Solar Farm. Still seeking appropriate land.
 - 12) Next SEC mtg to be Feb 18th at 7.30pm, Upstairs Town Clerks Office
- Respectfully submitted, Janet Cavanagh, Recording secretary