

# East Montpelier Energy Committee

## Meeting Minutes Draft – March 11, 2025

Meeting called to order 7:02 PM

### 1) Attendees

- a) Ben McCall (facilitator)
- b) Andy Shapiro
- c) Stephen Miracle
- d) Emily Levin
- e) Dan Costin (secretary)

### 2) The agenda was approved without changes.

The minutes from January 28, 2025 were approved as corrected. No members of the public were present.

### 3) Updates –

- a) VECAN – Emily explained that this is the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network. They have a big meeting that is usually scheduled in December. It is a good opportunity to get notice of grant opportunities. This organization is managed by Johanna Miller of VNRC. Ben and others should sign up for the Newsletter. The next webinar is about thermal energy networks. Also having the names of the people in the network can be a good resource.
- b) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant: BlocPower is not in business anymore, so the Collective Well Foundation will be taking over completion of the work with subcontractors as needed. The state is ok with Collective Well taking over the work content. Ben and Andy met with Collective Well. There was a lack of detail and the team asked for a detailed work plan. The work plan received was reviewed and more details were requested. A second plan was received with some improvements. Andy says that the team is lacking technical expertise. Andy was asking for letters of support from technical support organizations. BlocPower was going to figure out what needed to be done and manage the work to be done. An audit is not enough to get people to pay for the work. Ben indicated that GIS was in the grant agreement so it has to be in the Collective Well proposal. Emily suggested thinking about 3E Thermal to help with these energy retrofits, especially for multi-family housing. The team will keep working on improving the plan.
- c) Town Garage: Design and development is complete. Construction documents to be done in two weeks. Connor Contracting has been selected to build the garage. The well flow rate of 90 gallons per minute allows an open-loop system. Electric car chargers will cause a potential peak power charge. It would be better to have a separate meter for the car chargers. Much of the structure will be made of wood and fly-ash cement.

### 4) Energy Plan: Casella responded that landfill gas is not practical at the Central Vermont Transfer Station. Andy was able to track down the number of electric meters in East Montpelier. Austin and Ben met with Sam Lash about targets being too low. The targets are incremental. Also, the targets are multiplied by a factor due to the possibility of power production outside East Montpelier. The Generation Scenarios spreadsheet is the one that has goals for 2050. Total 3.4 MW is the incremental renewables target for 2050. Dan will update spreadsheet to update allocations to

rooftop and ground mounted solar. Austin and Emily will review the changes. Then Emily can talk about strategies to meet the targets.

- 5) Next meeting scheduled for March 25. Focus on Targets and Pathways.
- 6) Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.