

Energy Committee (final)

Fair Haven

June 24, 2014

Present: Herbert Durfee III, Chris Cole, Bob Richards, Mike Stannard, Pete Ruby, Neil Robinson

Absent:

Call to order (8:00 –Mike)

Mike Stannard began the meeting by asking the committee for a consensus on whether they believe the hydro project should continue after the presentation of the study. All members agreed that the next steps in bringing the process to fruition should be taken.

Herb Durfee consulted the committee on the need for a hearing before the Agency of Natural Resources. He advised that the the committee should seek the guidance of Jay Boery, PE. in escorting the committee to Montpelier and present our proposal. All agreed that Jay should also attend the meeting.

Neil Robinson and Pete Ruby expressed the need to come to an agreement with the property owner surrounding the Depot Street Dam. Mike Stannard Agreed to discuss an asking price for the purchase of the property with Brad Stevens. It was agreed by all committee members that a formal agreement should be attained as soon as possible. The committee agreed that rolling the purchase into the bond item on a future ballot would be the best approach.

It was brought to our attention, by a committee member, that Greg Macro may be bringing a lawsuit to the Town of Fair Haven for the legal fees involved with the previous attempt to quit claim all rights to the three dams to the Town of Fair Haven. He is not satisfied with the Town's denial of purchase, stating that he has a signed purchase and sale agreement signed by a former Town manager. There was a discussion about the title search done on the upper dam during the lead up to turning down the quit claim. Mike Stannard volunteered to meet with Craig Marcro, of Vermont Structural Slate to discuss this issue, and a possibility of a bringing restitution to the situation. He also agreed to enquire about the Company's position of an unfiled lease or title to the first dam, or whether the company maintains access rights to the dam. Many on the committee expressed that the town paying the accrued legal fees should not be a reason to stop such a lucrative project for the municipality.

Herb Durfee agreed to contact the Agency of Natural resources to obtain information on what they would need from us and a timeline for completion. He also agreed to review the file on the past quit claim agreement and discuss the past title search with Mr. Bloomer.

Mike Stannard agreed to draft a memo to the Select board after presenting the results of the aforementioned inquires to the Select Board to get consensus from them that we have their support in continuing and if there are any objections.

Chris and Bob agreed to get us on a future Select board agenda to present the memo in person at the Aug. 4 Select board meeting.

Neil: how long do citizens need to be warned of a bond item.

Meeting adjourned (8:58)

Mike Stannard

Chairman, Energy Committee

Fair Haven, Vermont