

CLIMATE AND ENERGY COMMITTEE
Monday, July 31, 2023 9:00 A.M.
Meeting held via Zoom

Minutes

Members Attending:

Rowland Davis, Judy Raven

Others Attending:

Rod Francis, Brandy Saxton (PlaceSense), Tom Karlhuber (Planning Commission)

Town Staff Attending:

Aaron DeNamur, Dir. of Planning & Zoning

Rowland called the meeting to order at 9:05

Discussion with PlaceSense Consultants Regarding land use regulations and building codes as related to climate and energy.

Rod and Brandy presented the purpose and scope of the project.

Rowland outlined the Committee's concerns, questions, and the areas the Committee will work on, including a Climate Action Plan to assist the Selectboard to implement energy and climate actions.

PlaceSense provided much information on the limits to municipal authority, what zoning and subdivision regulations can and cannot do; the general failure of incentives to limit or manage development. In particular, they pointed out the lack of inspection and enforcement as obstacles to code provisions designed to achieve energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission goals.

We also discussed impact fees and requirements relating to them.

Brandy and Rod outlined ways that the town's capital plan and budget can influence and even dictate purchasing decisions so as to achieve specific energy goals.

Re siting of solar arrays and wind turbines if a project is tied to the grid it does not need municipal approval.

Decommissioning fossil fuel installations such as gas stations (which are brownfields) needs to be planned for and budgeted for in future.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Raven