

DRAFT MINUTES, Article 36 Task Force special meeting, Nov. 4, 2021

Next meeting of committee will be Nov. 18

DRAFT MINUTES ART 36 11/4/21

Attendees, all members of TF, Linda Gray, Geoff Martin, Linda Cook as members of public.

No votes to be taken; meeting is for consensus continued drafting of a working paper in public view.

Draft document available for viewing on task force open Google Drive, URL posted with every agenda.

Deferred approval of past minutes for next regular meeting.

Posted the draft "chairman's outline" for review by the Task Force and public members.

Cushman noted that draft is work in progress and not subject for "approval" at this time. That will come later.

Lamperti chaired the meeting, Cushman took notes and wrote minutes from recorded Zoom session.

Comments:

GERE: seek simplicity in report descriptions of potential reductions.

MARTIN: found executive summary helpful.

CICOTELLI: Recommends consideration of the town's future growth. This may affect use of fossil fuels in municipal facilities.

Lamperti and other panel members agreed and consensus appeared to support this. Members noted that a recommendation for "carbon impact statements" helped in this regard. Lamperti, Rosenbloom and Cushman all noted that growth and carbon reductions can be delinked. Cushman asked Ciccotelli to draft suggested language and panel consensus is to move ahead on such language.

MARTIN: In executive summary, “Norwich falling behind” language should be revisited. Evidence? Cushman agreed to revise the language after a second look. Lamperti suggests to accentuate the positive — opportunity to lead our neighbors and the state, including in municipal buildings and facilities.

CUSHMAN: Note that Vermont Climate Assessment is due from state climatologist and should be cited in report.

CUSHMAN noted recent developments in funding from state and federal funding bolster need to be alert to outside financing of our plans.

LAMPERTI asks for good, succinct and possibly graphical history and baseline from numbers, to be maintained as an easily updated template.

ROSENBLOOM will work on that. It is somewhat complex but doable.

We have been using FY 19 for data baseline, but are aiming to get update through FY 20-21 which ended a few months ago.

CUSHMAN: Let us be sure we include recommendations on data as an action item.

LAMPERTI: Let’s get all our recommendations into our “action items”

MARTIN: Will assist in his role as energy coordinator to help pull together baseline data and graphics.

ROSENBLOOM: Hoping to get vehicle gas/diesel information by vehicle key since 2019.

LAMPERTI: Also good to get heating fuel data updated.

The committee then turned to question about how to organize its recommendations.

After discussion, including public input, the consensus was to organize our recommendations on the basis of individual fuels and sources, ie deal with heating fuel, equipment/vehicle diesel, vehicle gasoline, natural gas, etc.

GERE: Recommend addressing technology as a guiding element in which recommendations to prioritize — for example, technology exists now to reduce Tracy

Hall fossil fuel consumption and emissions to zero, while technology for certain internal combustion equipment may take a while to become feasible.

GRAY: Recommend including in recommendations what town agency or actor is responsible for carrying out recommendations.

GRAY: will ask state whether there will be future grant money from the state for upgrading diesel. (Her subsequent communication with the state and the task force indicates that such funding opportunities will return again in the future)

CUSHMAN said it is clear that in future there will be state and federal funding opportunities for the conversion away from fossil fuels. "We want to avoid locking in emissions when we replace equipment."

GERE: Selectboard really is hoping for suggestions for actionable items. The board would benefit greatly from distinct and recognizable list of suggestions and how doable they are. Also interested in getting control of capital budgets. A good idea of what it will cost in the future to replace vehicles would be extremely beneficial.

"If somehow or other we do Tracy Hall and drop the fuel consumption to zero on that building, we will have caught up with where we were supposed to be six months ago." That reduces difficulty of meeting our targets in the future. ARPA money could help.

Cushman was assigned the task of redrafting this section in (non quorum) consultation with Lamperti.

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 8 pm.

Minutes by Cushman from recorded Zoom call.

Submitted 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9

