

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
Northfield Energy Committee
Minutes for January 16, 2024

1. Public Participation (none)
2. Approval of Minutes: 12/19/2023 6:51pm
3. Discussion: Visitors Robin Dalgin and Debbie New provided information on Geothermal Networks in Vermont
 - a. A community system can use ground source temperatures (via water circulation) to moderate summer and winter temperatures in homes and businesses
 - Guests had previous discussion with Phil Sussman and Tom Davis
 - Further discussion postponed due to recent local flood recovery efforts
 - b. How to get started
 - NEC needs to understand the process
 - NEC can help to identify local areas where heat is inadvertently being released
 - Four Aspects of such a project
 - Develop mindset to identify and capture heat.
 - Think about cooling features, as well.
 - Develop awareness of hot water sources.
 - Think about need for heat storage pipes underground.
 - Fact sheets and videos are available at Vermont Community Thermal Networks (<https://www.vctn.org/>) Go to 'Learn' tab
 - Works most efficiently in areas of greater population density (i.e. downtown, new developments, university settings)
 - Possibilities for Management of such a System
 - Establishment of a Local Development Corporation (non-profit)

- Grant supported initially—then later financially self-sufficient via fees
 - Loans and development support via Vermont Bond Bank
 - Eventually could be set up as a Town Utility—charging a rate over time to finance the project
 - Legislative Bill pending to assist Towns in establishing such a system
 - NEC members plan to connect with the Northfield Housing Development Committee to identify common interests. (Jan 30th meeting)
 - c. Report for Town Meeting Day
 - Report was reviewed and approved.
 - d. It was shared that vandalism occurred at the Community kiosk. Gail will follow up with Northfield Police and Town Manager and NU to obtain replacement costs for insurance claim.
4. Public Participation
- No additional public participation
5. Adjourn: 7:30 pm
- Next meeting: February 20, 2024