

Sharon Energy Committee
Meeting Minutes – Monday February 13, 2017

Attending: Nicole Antal, Dee Gish, Ryan Haac, Margaret Raymond

1. Update on Weatherize Upper Valley

Ryan reported on the kick-off event of the White River Team Weatherize Upper Valley at the Royalton Academy on January 17. Continuing efforts include tabling at Town Meeting Day in Sharon, Royalton and Bethel. Follow-up with homeowners that signed up as interested will continue. An outreach event will be scheduled at Sandy's Drive-In once their ice-cream window is opened for the season. Green Up Day may be another good opportunity.

2. Town Meeting Breakfast

Nicole reported on organizing efforts for the Town Meeting breakfast. We will not be cooking hot food the morning of. Muffins, oatmeal and quiches will be prepared the night before. Monday night, March 6th from 3-6 pm, volunteers will prepare the food. Margaret will be making corn and chocolate chip muffins and Dee will provide a gluten free option. Sarah Canterbury will help during Town Meeting. Nicole will not be available Town Meeting day, but will email the group with ingredient requests. We will need coffee, tea, cider, pie shells and maple syrup. Carol Sheldon should be consulted about how to run the school dishwasher. It was suggested that any donations collected this year for the breakfast be donated to the Lanes who lost their Moore Road home to a fire earlier this winter.

3. Sharon Park and Ride

Dee will check with Rita Seto about updates to the Sharon Park and Ride improvement or expansion plans. At the February 6 Selectboard meeting, the Selectboard voted to endorse improving the existing Park and Ride within the existing State's right of way, and not expanding the Park and Ride by purchasing private property. It was reported that Deb Jones and Margy Becker have been keeping informal usage counts of the Park and Ride, as there has been debate over the capacity needed at the Sharon Park and Ride. Energy Committee members have mixed opinions regarding the expansion and improvement of the Park and Ride, so is not willing to make a unified statement.

4. Regional Energy Plan and Sharon Town Plan Energy Chapter

Dee reported on efforts by the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission for enhanced energy planning. Once TRORC receives a "determination of energy compliance" from the VT Department of Public Service after the proposed adoption of their Energy Implementation Plan in June, TRORC will be able to review municipal plans and award them a "determination of energy compliance" if the municipality meets the energy planning standards outlined in Act 174. With a "determination of energy compliance", a municipality will receive "substantial deference", or a greater say, in the PSBs review of energy projects in the Section 248 process. Following Town Meeting and after consultation with the Selectboard and Planning Commission, Dee may begin drafting an energy chapter to these standards. The energy chapter can be prepared as an amendment to the Town Plan and be reviewed and forwarded for adoption by the Planning Commission at any time. There will be opportunity for public input and review.

5. Half-Acre Motel site

Dee reported on an initial effort to engage Twin Pines Housing Trust to improve and/or expand the housing units at the Half-Acre apartments. As there is a great need for affordable housing in our region, and as the location has good access to public transit, schools, the church, food shelf and general

store, the Energy Committee would like to help any effort to improve or expand the Half-Acre apartments.

6. Norwich Technologies Solar project on Route 132

A hearing on the proposed project was scheduled for February 14, then rescheduled for March 14, to determine if the project will have an undue adverse impact on orderly development (on the historic district) and on aesthetics under Section 248. The Energy Committee generally supports this project, as there is a need for renewable energy systems and the developers have reconfigured the project to be located outside of the historic district boundaries.

7. New Business

A seed swap is being considered for April at Baxter Library.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Minutes prepared by Dee Gish 2/16/17