

Sharon Energy Committee Meeting Minutes - 20170731

Monday, the 31st of July at 5:15 at the Sharon Town Office.

Attendees: Ryan Haac, Dee Gish, Nicole Antal, Robin Servos

Public Comments: None

1) Weatherize Upper Valley: team debrief

a) Ryan reported that along with Bethel and Royalton, we brought 13 new weatherization projects to our immediate region. Along with concurrent campaigns in the Upper Valley, over 100 new house weatherization projects were generated in 2017. A debrief session with Vital Communities still needs to be scheduled and Ryan will take care of scheduling and attending– he has plenty to say, as both a volunteer and participant.

2) Sharon Park and Ride: proposal status

a) Nicole and Dee indicated that the Sharon Park and Ride will likely remain in its current location, only slightly expanded and reorganized. The expanded space is proposed to extend into the interstate ROW, requiring a considerable amount of fill.

b) The project will be pursued once Bethel's Park and Ride is up and parking –any action in Sharon is likely 3-5 years out.

c) The proposed larger footprint will accommodate public transportation, provide adequate lighting, and offer more parking spaces. Dee wondered if a charging station would be considered. Ryan noted that the addition of lighting to the Park and Ride would require utility electric service, eliminating one potential barrier to an electric vehicle charging station.

3) Individual member projects

a) Ryan, Nicole and Dee shared some of their personal energy related projects with the group.

4) Enhanced Energy Planning

a) Dee explained that TRORC has submitted the regional plan to the Department of Public Service. If (when) approved, towns will be able to submit enhanced energy plans directly to the regional planning commission, as opposed to the state (DPS).

b) There was unanimous interest to reach out to the Planning Commission for collaboration. Ryan is planning to attend the planning commission meeting on August 15th to relay the Energy Committee's interest in collaboration.

c) Dee indicated that the deadline for requesting assistance from TRORC for the second round of the process has been extended. As the letter of intent was requested from the Selectboard, Dee requested that the matter be added to the agenda at the next Selectboard meeting. Since we are unable to attend the Selectboard meeting (Aug 7),

Dee or Ryan will reach out to Mary Gavin or write a letter/provide materials beforehand.

d) We expressed interest in seeking input from Town residents about their past and future perceptions of local energy production and consumption. Should we organize a survey? (see Grant Opportunities below)

5) Upcoming Events

a) Saturday, August 12: Old Home Day - Bicycle Gang

i) The Energy Committee is planning to participate in the parade again. Ryan is going to look into proper Energy Committee signage and Nicole is going to provide a bag of candy to throw to spectators...we came to the consensus that throwing zucchinis would be inappropriate.

6) Anything else?

a) Grant Opportunities

i) Dee recently sent around a NEGREF grant opportunity with project ideas. Members will digest the scope of these grants before next meeting and try to understand where the grants fit into our needs/wants/ideas/energy level. Some initial ideas that were brought up at the meeting were to utilize the grant to fund:

- a multi-modal survey of members of the Town to help inform the Enhanced Energy Planning with town-wide perceptions

- an energy and/or permaculture and/or rural living forum event

- a local food, business, and service directory

- Robin thought that some funding should go to coconut people on pirate ships

b) Solar Project: Route 132 and Beaver Meadow - Norwich Technologies

i) The Selectboard signed a memorandum of agreement and the project is in Section 248 proceedings.

ii) Apparently, Norwich Technologies has offered (and the Town accepted the offer) to donate the energy production from 5kW of installed capacity to the Town.

Next meeting date: August 28th, 2017 at 5:15pm at the Sharon Town Office.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PMish.

*Please note that future minutes will include 24 hour time. Also, since our society has not yet transitioned to the metric system, both systems (SI and the US standard system) will be included to aid those still in transition when relevant values are discussed. Let me know if I need to do the same with 24 hour time...and sorry for the messy formatting this time.

Minutes by Ryan Haac, 20170802