

Sharon Energy Committee Meeting

Monday, July 23rd, 2018 @ 05:15 PM

Sharon Town Office

2018-07-23 17:15

DRAFT Minutes

Energy Committee Members attending: Dee Gish, Ryan Haac, Jill Wilcox

Visitors attending: Elisabeth "Tii" McLane

Ryan called the meeting together at 17:18 (5:18 PM).

1. Public comment period

Tii introduced herself as a representative of Two-Rivers Action Committee ("TRAC") and provided background and foreground information about the group. TRAC's current primary focus is a statewide push for carbon pricing. Tii is exploring any overlap in the work of TRAC and regional energy committees. She mentioned that TRAC often organizes speakers and expert panels locally. Ryan suggested that energy committees could help spread word of these events within their towns.

2. Approve prior meeting minutes

Minutes from April 2018 meeting approved (2018-04-30 17:15)

3. Sharon Energy Survey Update

We agreed that all materials are sufficient for the mailing and Ryan is going to initiate the mailing. We discussed the potential for physical survey distribution in town to increase the sample and decrease the number of individual envelopes that we need to send. However, the logistics and optics of collecting addresses in an otherwise anonymous survey were decidedly confounding. We all agreed that sending the survey out and doing our individual outreach was most effective and we will move forward with the mailing distribution. Envelope preparation and mailing to occur in the coming weeks with the aid of available EC members and Kayleigh.

4. Steps Forward: Enhanced Energy Planning

Ryan provided an overview of the status of the Enhanced Energy Planning work: we have a draft Energy Chapter that is ready for review. It meets the Act 174 Criteria for an Enhanced Energy Chapter, with the exception of identifying preferred sites, which is required for a compliant Enhanced Energy Plan. To move this forward, Ryan will make the draft chapter available for review digitally. Additionally, we will make an effort to reengage the Planning Commission for the collaboration required to complete the update to the Town Plan's Energy Chapter.

Dee noted that she recently attended an Act 174 public hearing that was mostly about definitions around siting renewable energy projects, such as how to define brownfields and the provision for naming preferred sites, as needed, by town officials.

5. Discussion on proposed home energy informational sheet

Jill volunteered to put together a home energy data log sheet to help households keep track of typical energy and fuel use. Dee suggested starting with the Weatherize Upper Valley's Home Energy Profile form and consolidating it to contain basic home data and energy use. We agreed that the page is a great resource to have at future EC-attended events and Town Meeting Days.

6. Upper Valley Community Work Day (August 25th, 2018) brainstorming session

Ryan explained the nature of the idea envisioned by the community work day, which is spearheaded by Community Resilience Organization of Hartford and the Upper Valley Adaption Workgroup. The event is intended to be a late-season Green-Up Day in the spirit of Hurricane Irene. We discussed several ideas, such as educational demonstrations of invasive plant management and assembling/distributing emergency kits but ultimately felt that the community centered approach to a work-project like cleaning culverts was warranted and engaging. This community culvert cleaning project was envisioned as a crowd-sourced maintenance and status check of culverts in town. Ryan is going to contact the Road Foreman to gauge interest and practicality.

7. Other Business: none

8. Next scheduled meeting: Monday, August 27th, 2018 (2018-08-27 17:15)

Ryan adjourned the meeting at 18:28 (6:28 PM).