

Sharon Energy Committee Meeting

Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 @ 05:15 PM

Sharon Town Office

2019-04-22 17:15

**DRAFT Minutes**

Energy Committee Members attending: Dee Gish, Ryan Haac

Ryan called the meeting together at 17:29 (5:29 PM).

1. **Public comment period**: None

2. **Approve prior meeting minutes**

Minutes from February 2019 meeting approved (2019-02-28 17:15).

3. **Sharon Park and Ride / EV charging update**

Final planning for the Sharon Park and Ride expansion is liking starting soon (or already started?). Dee agreed to write a letter to urge VTrans to provide electric vehicle charging infrastructure that is more substantial than a typical wall outlet. We hope to circulate this letter to other Town groups for support.

4. **Sharon Energy Survey debrief**

Results were distributed and displayed at Town Meeting 2019 and will remain available online. Ryan will submit a hard copy of the materials to the Town Office for the record. The survey data will be integrated into the draft Energy Chapter. Overall, the survey effort exceeded the goal of responses, provided a benchmark for heating energy use, and identified energy upgrades and needs in Sharon.

Ryan was asked to showcase the project at the upcoming Energy Committee Roundtable hosted by Vital Communities. He will present about the methods, lessons, and successes of the project to other energy committees in the region.

5. **Discussion of updated Energy Chapter: updates and review**

Ryan shared that the current draft Energy Chapter, produced through a collaboration with TRORC, is being reviewed and updated. The Energy Committee will host a joint meeting with the Planning Commission in the coming months to collaboratively perform the mapping of preferred renewable energy sites in Sharon. The mapping needs to be completed in order for the Energy Chapter to be qualified as an "Enhanced Energy Plan." We recently received updated 2019 data from TRORC that can be incorporated into the draft Energy Chapter.

6. **Comments on banning future fossil fuel infrastructure**

Dee presented a letter from the Energy Committee to the House Energy and Technology Committee that opposes additional fossil fuel infrastructure and promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy. It was endorsed by the Sharon Energy Committee. She will be at a public hearing in Montpelier to testify and submit the letter.

## **7. Earth Day: Reflections**

Dee and Ryan shared how they observed Earth Day and identified prospective actions. Ryan suggested a collaborative project for next year that included distributing native trees for Earth Day, potentially in collaboration with the Conservation Commission. He will start looking for grants or means of obtaining tree seedlings for distribution.

## **8. Other Business:**

Ryan mentioned the need to support the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) without taking funds from Vermont's energy efficiency utility (Efficiency Vermont). Efficiency Vermont will continue to lead in helping transition the state to less energy demand and cleaner transportation alternatives. WAP can be funded through a \$0.02/gal heating fuel tax. He will draft and distribute a letter of support for both of these programs.

## **9. Next scheduled meeting:** Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (2019-05-27 17:15)

Ryan adjourned the meeting at 18:05 (6:05 PM).

DRAFT