

Sharon Energy Committee Meeting
Monday, June 24th, 2019 @ 05:15 PM

Sharon Town Office
2019-06-24 17:15

DRAFT Minutes

Energy Committee members attending: Dee Gish, Ryan Haac

Ryan called the meeting together at 17:22 (5:22 PM).

1. **Public comment period**: No comments

2. **Approve prior meeting minutes**

Minutes from May 2019 meeting approved (2019-05-27 17:15).

3. **Energy Chapter updates**

Ryan shared that a mapping exercise has been scheduled for the August Planning Commission meeting (Tuesday, August 13th @ 7:30 PMish).

Ryan committed to have an updated Energy Chapter draft prior to this meeting.

4. **Website content input**

Ryan presented a draft outline and some content/contents for an updated Energy Committee webpage. Dee agreed to review and help build the "Resources" section.

5. **Transportation programs: brainstorming session**

We reviewed the notes from the EC roundtable and identified several Upper Valley transportation resources that exist in Sharon. The prominent resources in Sharon were identified as: "lots of personal cars," Park & Ride, defined transit corridor (Route 14, I-89), trail committees and other VCRD Community Visit Process groups, "sort of" walkable downtown, on-call senior buses/volunteer drivers, and Road Crew.

We discussed how some of these could be leveraged to limit the impact of commuters and the sheer inefficiency of our current single-occupant-vehicle system. Ryan endearingly referred to cars as "Time and Space Machines."

Dee noted that the existence of a Sharon Facebook page and the potential for a Facebook group for ride sharing. Ryan and Dee were both not familiar with using Facebook for networking and are not present in that virtual space. Ryan noted that being able to request and post rides could prove to be a successful forum. He also conceded that people are likely not inclined to share such personal information broadly to the public, i.e., one's "habitual whereabouts."

Ryan suggested a hybrid of these approaches in which an individual coordinator collects this information from people that want to participate and matches them up with others that have similar schedules and destinations. These individuals could then collaborate on rides with each other, saving money, mileage/maintenance, and emissions, while building

community connections. Dee volunteered to reach out to Vital Communities to see what has been done in the past and for any further guidance on this idea.

Additionally, Ryan shared his frustration regarding conditions for pedestrians and bikers on Town roads, as these manual modes of transportation are much less energy intensive than motor vehicles. He noted that bikes/pedestrians are not physically compatible with motor vehicles traveling in both directions. Ryan suggested that lower speed limits could make the roads safer but due to nonexistent enforcement, an overly complicated process, and an unlikely consensus of support, the idea was discarded. Since the roads are not getting any wider, the only other option identified was through a separate, independent network of “trails” connecting points in Sharon (and beyond?).

6. Other business?

Dee agreed to watch for any action on the Sharon Park & Ride planning from the VTrans. Ryan opined that it has been delayed due to an increased focus on the new Park & Ride build in Royalton at Exit 3. Dee and Ryan both noted the lack of facility infrastructure present at the existing Park & Ride. Dee shared that she had previously looked into providing a bus shelter but it was beyond the scope of an Eagle Scout project (due to required materials and specifications). Ryan commented that the bike parking is not an inviting location to store a bicycle and thus appears to receive little use. Ryan noted the optimal use of a Park & Ride is when it saves the automobile trip altogether.

7. Next meeting: Monday, July 22nd, 2019 (2019-07-22 17:15)

Ryan adjourned the meeting at 18:15 (6:15 PM).