

Sharon Energy Committee

Remote Access Meeting

Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 05:00 PM

2020-05-27 17:00

**Draft Minutes**

*This meeting was held through teleconference and in compliance with the Vermont Open Meeting Law for electronic participation.*

Energy Committee members attending: Dee Gish, Ryan Haac, and Jill Wilcox

Ryan called the meeting together at 17:03 (5:03 PM).

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

2. **Approve previous meeting minutes**

Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (2020-02-24 17:15) minutes approved.

3. **Status RE: COVID-19 pandemic**

Ryan shared the difficulty he has faced in making time for community work during this pandemic period due to the combined demands of work, family, and household (hence the EC meeting hiatus). In some ways, the present has never been so present.

Jill brought up the recent achievement in Strafford to generate a letter support for the Global Warming Solutions Act, which is active in current in the Vermont Statehouse. We agreed that there was obvious need for such action. Dee noted that such a gesture would be in line with the votes at Town Meeting regarding climate change in 2018 and 2020. Further, she agreed to draft a similar letter to present to the Selectboard. Dee pointed out that the bill adds transportation and heating efficiency to Efficiency Vermont's wheelhouse, which we all agreed was a productive allocation.

Ryan shared his reservations with going forward with a Window Dressers campaign this year (which involves having volunteers enter people's homes for taking measurements and community build workshops). Neither "activity" seems appropriate during the pandemic. Maybe there are alternatives with self-measurement campaign and a physically distanced "workshop." To be continued...

Like other human-scale disasters, the current pandemic has revealed how personal, communal, and economic resilience are critical to these times and in the future. We agreed that the reinvigoration of a Community Resilience Organization in Sharon would be prudent and discussed ways to catalyze its regeneration. This organization could act as a hub/liaison between community organizations. Wide representation would ensure that the group develops and supports critical functions in Town. The need for this consensus and function is necessary yet it lacks a leader. Jill suggested Greg Elder as a unifying force (and others agreed with the "nomination.") Jill will reach out to Greg to gauge his interest/reaction.

Jill suggested that the need for firewood assistance this winter may be large. Ryan agreed that the idea could be profoundly helpful to many folks but noted that like many good ideas, it currently lacks ownership (i.e. leadership).

**4. Regional Energy Coordinator position update**

Ryan has continued to serve as Sharon's representative for the position and will be a member of the steering committee for the position. The job description will be available shortly and the position could be filled by as early as July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Due to the pandemic, most of the work for the employee will be remote, for which TRORC is prepared.

**5. Other Business**

None discussed.

**6. Next meeting: Monday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 @ 5:15 PM (17:15).**

Ryan adjourned the meeting at 5:40 PM (17:40).

DRAFT