

Sharon Energy Committee

Remote Access Meeting

Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 05:15 PM

2020-07-27 17:15

**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 and Ryan Haac.

Ryan called the meeting together at 17:20 (5:20 PM).

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

2. **Approve previous meeting minutes**

Differed until next meeting.

3. **Mobile Home Energy Savings Project**

Ryan shared that he agreed to engage with Vital Communities (VC) to facilitate an outreach program for energy savings in mobile homes. Ryan suggested to VC that there may be an opportunity to extend the effort to *all* low-income households and/or those directly affected by the pandemic. Ryan shared that Springfield was very successful last year in a pilot program (pre-pandemic) and Hartford has working through remote options. Ana from VC will attend our next meeting to discuss next steps.

4. **Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator: update and planning**

Ryan has continued to serve as Sharon's representative for the position and will be a member of the steering committee for the position. Geoff Martin, who was Harford Energy Commissioner, is starting the position on August 19<sup>th</sup>. The steering committee will meet with him prior to the date to begin to formulate the position.

We brainstormed a list of potential projects for Geoff to tackle, including:

- Ryan and Dee both re-iterated that understanding how we spend money on energy now is an important benchmark to gain.
- Liaison for Park and Ride improvement with VTrans, including Level II charger.
- Liaison for the recently announced Efficiency VT school HVAC grant program. Dee mentioned that Keenan Haley indicated that the school district is planning to apply for the grant.
- Follow-up on the library energy audit, including seeking grants for heat pump to stand in as main heating system for the library (with existing boiler remaining as backup). The heat pump could also provide cooling, which would replace the need, noise, and complication of a window A/C, that Dee thought may have been previously planned for the space.

- The Town owns the TSA middle school building. How can energy / air quality improvements to the school benefit the school and the Town?
- BALE closing out their community solar project in Royalton with VT Law School (VLS). Some seed money to jumpstart additional solar projects is available. Maybe there is a location in Sharon for community solar? Apparently, the farmer hosting the project in Royalton will no longer pay for power in return for hosting the array. Dee mentioned VLS has been instrumental in finding markets for the RECs, so that the array is officially responsible for the clean energy produced by the arrays (and it is not sold out of state or to the utility).
- Develop guidelines for future major purchases of fleet vehicles.

#### **5. Legislative update from Jill**

No Jill at this meeting.

#### **6. Other Business**

Since the library has re-opened for curbside pickup, Ryan believes that the thermal imaging lending camera program can start up. He will reach out to Shana and deliver the materials.

We discussed the potential for participating in ButtonUp Vermont this year. With current incentives for weatherization are a bit higher and no direct benefit to hosting our own "campaign," we decided to not participate but agreed to remain vigilant for valuable information to distribute via the listserv and other appropriate means for the benefit of our fellow citizens.

#### **7. Next meeting:** Monday August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 5:15 PM (2020-08-24 17:15).

Ryan adjourned the meeting at 17:53 (5:53 PM).