

Sharon Energy Committee

Remote Access Meeting

Monday, September 28th, 2020 @ 05:15 PM

2020-09-28 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, Ryan Haac.

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

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

2. **Approve previous meeting minutes**

Approval waived until next meeting.

3. **Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator updates**

- Ryan reported that he has been working with Geoff Martin (the IREC) to gather town utility bills. Dee will work with The Sharon Academy to get electric information for the schoolhouse.
- Energy Services Performance Contracting possibilities were discussed, where energy audits for all Town buildings and schools would be completed for no charge and a recommended scope of work for energy improvements would be prepared, which is provided with a guaranteed return on investment. A joint RFQ will be prepared for all interested participating towns; Ryan and Geoff are attending the Selectboard meeting next week to seek the Selectboard's permission.
- Community Solar – Geoff has been talking to some interested landowners about hosting a project. Ryan and Geoff will determine the remaining net-metered consumption at the Town and School level.
- Green Mountain Power Charging Station Leasing Program - for about \$50 per month lease, GMP would install a charging station. Ryan was not clear if this was only for Town property or also available to private business/properties. More info next month.
- Geoff will be performing walk throughs of municipal buildings to provide context for his work on their energy consumption, mechanical equipment, and overall efficiency.

4. **Mobile Home Energy Savings Project**

- Ryan has been meeting weekly with Vital Communities and other participating towns regarding the Mobile Home Energy Savings Project. He reported having trouble moving forward in Sharon as he had not received the requested data from listers. In lieu of this, Ryan obtained E911 addresses and classifications ("MOBILE HOME") through the Vermont Center for Geographic Information. Using his own means, he generated a list of addresses of 96 mobile homes in Sharon.
- Most mobile homes in Sharon are not in a centralized park

- Ryan will likely send a direct mailing to mobile homeowners and has gotten addresses through the state as a first step at engagement.
- Dee has volunteered to stuff envelopes and create mailing labels once the mailing list has been finalized.

5. **Legislative update**

Apparently, our letter to Governor Scott did not sway his opinion because he vetoed the Vermont Global Warming Solution Act when it reached his desk. Nonetheless, the Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act became law this month through a legislative veto override session.

6. **Real carbon Solutions**

Ryan introduced a brainstorming session for tangible carbon solutions that make a positive impact on the climate crisis, increase local resiliency/cooperation, and are practical/attainable. He suggested that carbon should be better integrated into our daily lives as it progresses toward being stored in the ground or otherwise tied up in the ecosystem (and thus not released as CO₂ into the atmosphere). General ideas discussed included:

- a. Local biochar production through “waste” products as feedstocks
- b. Community orchard
- c. Community composting center

7. **Next meeting**: Monday October 26th, 2020 @ 5:15 PM (2020-10-26 17:15).

Ryan adjourned the meeting at 6:17 PM.