

Sharon Energy Committee

Remote Access Meeting

Monday, January 25th, 2020 @ 05:15 PM

2021-01-25 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: Ryan Haac, Jill Wilcox.

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

1. **Public comment period**

No comments.

2. **Approve previous meeting minutes**

Differed until next meeting.

3. **Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator updates**

Ryan explained that collaboration with the IREC continues: The company selected by the Steering Committee, EEI, is beginning to engage with the Town and initial building assessments are being scheduled for next month. Additionally, Ryan shared that funding for the IREC was included in the Town budget for the next fiscal year; the Town plans to continue the working relationship.

4. **Mobile Home Energy Savings Project updates**

Ryan shared that the main outreach portion of the project has been completed; he will continue following up with participants and distributing information.

Jill mentioned that she recently had work complete by Capstone, which is a program/service being advertised for the Energy Savings Project. Ryan asked Jill if she would describe some of her experience with the program. "They came in 4 waves," she said:

1. Initial walkthrough (replaced all light bulbs with LED bulbs; new smoke and CO alarms in the house and garage)
2. Home weatherization assessment, including a blower door test
3. Comprehensive weatherization (two days with a crew of up to seven) that:
 - a. Blew in added cellulose to the attic and redesigned attic access
 - b. Added insulation in 2nd floor crawlspaces (Cape Style house)
 - c. Installed 2nd floor bathroom – new overhead light and fan

- d. Added weatherstripping to exterior and cellar doors
- e. Installed rigid dryer vent to the exterior
- f. Freezer replacement
- g. Spray foam around the sill in the basement.
- h. Also, furnace repairmen came and assessed furnace/hot water heater. The hot water heater was back venting, so they installed a power vent to assist the venting.

4. Blower door post-test

Jill thought that they did good work – kept it clean and cleaned up. Overall, it was a great experience. Thousands of dollars of work completed for no cost (she qualified for this benefit based on income). She said that she has noticed some basic improvements already, such as lower relative humidity in the basement and believes that the new insulation has been helpful for in the crawlspaces. Jill felt that the preparation for the job was overwhelming but worthwhile. She was very grateful to have the work completed.

5. **Sharon Town Plan – Energy Chapter updates**

Ryan shared that the Planning Commission and TRORC were progressing on updates to the Town Plan. TRORC contributed to an updated Energy Chapter for the Town Plan update, based on the draft we developed in 2019. The PC meetings in the next couple months will consider the Energy Chapter and we are encouraged to attend. The first one is on Tuesday, February 9th.

6. **Legislative update from Jill**

Not much to report this month. Website for climate coalition was established; committees assessing how funding will shift with the new federal administration. More updates depth update next month.

7. **Real carbon solutions**

Jill explained that the re-wilding program of 350VT is hoping to do a lot of its work around Earth Day to May Day this year with a series of tree plantings. If we are interested, we should try to find and secure locations for riparian plantings or fruit and nut trees in community spaces. Funding exists to help plant the trees but what we need to do is find the location, figure out species/amounts and get volunteers together to get them in the ground. Tree purchases are made on March 15th for bare root trees (3'). Tree planting should be combined with some kind of educational experience and ideally bring children into the project. Ryan suggested distributing trees with an education tag detailing planting site/care/benefits/etc.

Jill agreed to reach out to the Conservation Commission to gauge their interest and ideas for site for planting trees in Town. She also agreed to look into properties in Town where more tree plantings would be suitable. The goal with planting food trees is to have the trees in a location for anyone who needs food to pick from. Ryan mentioned some of the outlying areas at the Sharon Elementary, particularly by the interstate.

8. **Other business**

Ryan said that he forgot to mention at the last meeting that the Digital Thermal Imaging Camera is in circulation at the library! He will continue to “advertise” it. Outreach based around the camera is planned in the future during less-pandemicky times.

9. **Next meeting** – Monday, February 22nd, 2021 (2021-02-22 17:15)

Ryan adjourned the meeting at 6:11 PM.

DRAFT