

Sharon Energy Committee

Monday, June 28th, 2021 @ 05:30 PM

[Outside of the] Sharon Town Office

2021-06-28 17:30

Draft Minutes

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

Energy Committee members attending: Ryan Haac, and Jill Wilcox.

No remote participants.

Ryan called the meeting together at 17:52 (5:52 PM).

1. **Public Comment Period**

No public. No comments.

2. **Approve previous meeting minutes**

Deferred approval to future meeting.

3. **Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator updates**

At their last IREC steering committee meeting at the end of June, Peggy O'Neill-Vivanco of the Vermont Clean Cities Coalition talked about developing "EV readiness" in Vermont towns. She explained the modules of a workshop she is leading this summer. Ryan mentioned that some of the modules of the workshop appear to offer a promising avenue to foster charging station infrastructure in town but most of the content is directed at larger communities. Participation in the workshop requires a "municipal decisionmaker" – Ryan will assess the benefits more directly in his 1-on-1 meeting with Geoff this week before asking a SB member or Town Staff if they would be willing to participate. She also shared a useful tool for assessing vehicle procurement and operation cost of vehicles (<https://afleet.es.anl.gov/afleet/>)

Ryan has a meeting with Geoff and EEI regarding the energy audits of Town buildings in early July. EEI is then planning to present results at a Selectboard meeting in July.

Ryan mentioned that he still needs to review the Green Procurement Policy and submit comments to the SB for their consideration. Earlier in the day, Geoff sent Ryan the greenhouse gas emissions inventory for the Town, so he needs to review that too. Also, he said that he needed to find a way to make the Town's fuel consumption data easier to access (i.e., less work for Town staff to report and better data resolution at the Town Garage).

4. **Legislative Update from Jill**

No updates this month.

5. **Real carbon solutions**

Ryan commended Jill's efforts with following through on the organization of tree planting at the school – a collaborative efforts between the EC, Conservation Commission, and Eric Cornell. The Valley News ran a photo of the event:

The Clean Energy Development Fund (CEDF) released its fiscal year budget. Apparently, incentives available through the Renewable Energy Resource Center are “all-in” on wood pellets. Ryan will follow up with some resources regarding the proposal and the opportunity to comment.

6. **Other business**

Jill and Ryan debriefed on the UV E-bike library in Sharon and discussed some logistical improvements they could make if the library comes back next year, such as:

- The preferred method of participation was short-term (1 to 3 day) rentals, as opposed to the “demo-day” format on the weekend. The demo days were good but should limited to a single day
- The infrastructure at the school worked well. Jill did have some issues with the sun/heat on some afternoons charging the bikes.
- Timing was often problematic for getting bikes fully recharged prior between short-term rentals since the chargers should not be left unattended / plugged in overnight for safety reasons. Ryan mentioned that one option is to put the chargers on an outlet timer.
- Staggered arrivals would improve the short-term rental experience (instead of having all four borrowers arrive at the same time).

Ryan thanked Jill (and everyone else that volunteered for the program) for helping get people on bikes!

7. Next meeting scheduled for Monday, July 26th, 2021 (2021-07-26 17:30)

Ryan adjourned the meeting at 6:36 PM, just as an air-mass thunderstorm began to encompass the area.