

## Sharon Energy Committee Meeting

Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 04:45 PM

Sharon Town Office

15 School Street, Sharon VT 05065

2022-04-25 16:45

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

Present at the Town Office: Ryan Haac (EC), Jill Wilcox<sup>1</sup> (EC)

On the phone: Dee Gish (EC)

Ryan called the meeting together at 16:52 (4:52 PM).

### 1. **Public Comment Period**

No comments.

### 2. **Approve previous meeting minutes**

The minutes from Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (2022-03-28 16:45) were approved by Dee, which was seconded by Jill (once she arrived at the meeting).

### 3. **Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator updates**

Ryan reported that a collection of regional energy committees is planning to meet on May 26 (5 to 7 PM) at Huntley Meadows in Norwich to discuss the draft of the Regional Community Action Plan.

Ryan also provided an update on the heat pump at the library: the SB had approved the purchase/installation of the heat pump at the library. They chose to use ARPA funds to pay for it (the RFP was written to satisfy the requirements thereof in case they decided to do so). The heat pump is likely to be installed around the end of June / early July.

Ryan also mentioned that Geoff had provided him with a quote for the Town to buy in to a Strafford community solar array. The array is retaining the RECs, that is, not selling them to the utility, to ensure that the off-takers from the project actually have a claim to the renewable attributes of the energy produced by the array. We discussed that private interests/donors could potentially buy in to the array on behalf of the library in order to take advantage of the federal tax credit (the Town/Library cannot directly receive the tax credit).

### 4. **Upper Valley E-bike Loaning Library (UVELL) Update**

Ryan reminded the group that the bikes are arriving on Tuesday and rentals start on Wednesday just after 5 PM. He reported that he received permission from SES to store

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<sup>1</sup> Arrived at 5:10 PM, during Agenda Item #6

the bikes in the shed, though he will have to clear out the shed. He has a meeting with Keenan prior to receiving the bikes to discuss.

5. **2022 Energy Burden Program**

Ryan relayed the fact that the program is wrapping up this year: the mailings have been completed and the last survey results are trickling in. Vital Communities is sending out one last summary info sheet to residents on the mailing list.

6. **Mutual Aid Shelf**

Jill will reach out to Zach and the other involved parties to determine where this stands.

7. **Actions on Climate Change and Real Carbon Solutions**

Dee noted her participation in the EV event in Norwich last weekend. She thought it was a success and enjoyed sharing her experience driving her EV with folks that showed up to the event.

We discussed our inability to field the Window Dressers program again this year. We agreed to try again next year by getting a team together as the project is running this fall. BALE / Royalton was mentioned as a potential partner.

Jill mentioned her intention to continue pursuing a "Repair Café," which we agreed would be a useful and interesting event that promotes non-disposable consumer products.

8. **Other Business**

It was suggested that since the Baxter Library has a desire to expand and the Sharon Church is looking to downsize, they should consider changing places in the future, though the recent investments in the Library heating system does not currently make this an attractive option for the Town. Ryan suggested that enhanced perimeter drainage could allow the library to keep the basement dry and make use of the basement for additional "finished" library space.

Dee left the meeting (5:24 PM) and Ryan filled Jill in on the volunteering details regarding the e-bike library.

9. Next meeting is scheduled for May 30, 2022 @ 4:45 PM (2022-05-30 16:45)

Ryan adjourned the meeting at 5:36 PM.