

**Sharon Energy Committee Meeting**

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

Sharon Town Office

15 School Street, Sharon VT 05065

2022-07-25 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)

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 the prior meeting (2022-05-23 16:45) were approved unanimously.

3. **Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator updates**

Ryan reported that the heat pump installation at the Baxter Library is ongoing – the work is currently being completed.

Dee mentioned that she recently attended a meeting organized by Sustainable Woodstock to discuss the Regional Community Action Plan (RCAP) developed by the group. Ryan will ask Jenevra for the slides and distribute them.

Ryan mentioned that he wanted to solicit input from the SB on priorities for the IREC. Dee suggested that he should also talk to the PC, which he agreed to do.

Some brainstormed ideas for IREC priorities we discussed included support with a charging station grant proposal and bike/ped studies/grants (i.e., ADA compliant sidewalk in the Village)

4. **Mutual Aid Shelf**

Not discussed.

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

We discussed Ryan's idea of converting the Energy Committee to a Community Resilience Organization in order to engender more collaboration and support networks among folks in Sharon. Dee suggested that we consider convening community groups in a couple times per year to provide a collective avenue for building inter-community relationships.

Ryan shared a recent revelation about how the climate emergency is “framed.” As devastating as the future looks, rather than framing it as an existential problem that will significantly erode human civilization within a decade or two, Ryan suggested that the current predicament be framed as an opportunity for people to redirect their focus to the opportunities that the calamity offers. Some examples he provided included professional opportunities in weatherization/alternative energy/landscape, community-based energy deployment (i.e., community solar, micro-grids), and investment in local food systems –to face the ensuing crisis with the urgency it demands.

6. **Other Business**

Dee asked about the potential for Sharon to implement a Green Purchasing Policy, similar to that recently passed by Bethel, as reported on in the Herald. Ryan explained that he had previously completed a draft for Sharon, based on an example/template policy generated by the IREC, but wanted to see how the Baxter Library heat pump project transpired. He agreed to send the current draft to the EC for review.

7. Next meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2022 @ 4:45 PM (2022-08-22 16:45)

Ryan adjourned the meeting at 5:41 PM.