

## Sharon Energy Committee Meeting

Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 06:00 PM

Sharon Town Office

15 School Street, Sharon VT 05065

2023-02-27 18:00

*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) and Jill Wilcox (EC)

On the phone: Dee Gish (EC)

Ryan called the meeting together at 18:10 (6:10 PM).

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

No comments.

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

Dee motioned to approval the minutes from the prior meeting (2023-01-23). Jill seconded.

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

Ryan reported the following:

- He met the new IREC (Jeff Grout) virtually and will meet him in person in Sharon this week.
- The IREC funding is on the ballot at Town Meeting – it will be debated and voted on from the floor.
- The Climate Action Sub-Group has completed a first draft website database of funding available for different residential/commercial energy technologies. Ryan will circulate the link publicly in the near future.

### 4. **Repair Fair debrief**

We discussed the success of the Good Neighbors Day and Repair Fair in Randolph on Saturday, February 25. We noted several participants and attendees from Sharon. As such, Jill is spearheading a similar event in Sharon in June. We discussed opportunities, considerations, and locations for the event, which will also be discussed in future meetings.

### 5. **Potential VCRD Facilitation**

Dee reported on her and Ryan's recent meeting with VCRD about facilitating a convening of community organizations and stakeholders around a revival of the Sharon Community Resilience Organization (or similar). They are awaiting a response to

understand if VCRD has the staffing resources to provide targeted facilitation services in Sharon this year. Either way, we will continue to discuss this gathering at our next meeting.

6. **Potential Window Dressers 2023 collaboration**

Dee explained her understanding of a regional Window Dressers campaign being organized for the region (including such towns as Hartford, Sharon, and Wilder). The EC has been interested in participating for years but has been unable to bear the heavy burden of organizing the program. In this iteration, Sharon participants and volunteers would provide some of the labor for measuring windows in Sharon homes, participating on build days, and helping with installs. Dee will follow up with Hartford's Energy Coordinator to see how we can prepare for involvement.

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

Dee informed us of her intention to plan an Earth Day event with BALE on the South Royalton Green. We expressed our support and offered additional ideas and help with planning the event.

We also discussed how we could support the Sharon Church's budding desire to have the building co-purposed for the community.

We also talked about our disappointment and overall skepticism of the Affordable Heat Act. The general consensus was that although the intentions were seemingly good, the proposed mechanism for compliance/results relies on an opaque low-carbon energy shell-game of credit trading. Ryan noted that a more direct approach to the problem, such as a lifecycle carbon tax, would be more effective and transparent system.

We briefly discussed the invasives workdays at the Ashley Forest. Ryan mentioned his intention to procure a weed-wrench (or similar) in the near future, which would be of paramount service in such environments, particularly for physical (not chemical) removal of barberry, buckthorn, and honeysuckle.

8. **Other Business**

We discussed the continued potential for supporting Town Meeting Breakfast refreshments. We agreed to collaborate on providing such things as breads, muffins, coffee, and tea.

9. Next meeting was scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6 PM (2023-03-27 18:00)

Ryan adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM.