

Sharon Energy Committee Meeting

Monday, March 27th, 2023 @ 06:00 PM

Sharon Town Office

15 School Street, Sharon VT 05065

2023-03-27 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: Paula Duprat, Dee Gish (EC), and Ryan Haac (EC)

Ryan called the meeting together at 18:05 (6:05 PM).

1. **Public Comment Period**

No comments.

2. **Approve previous meeting minutes**

Dee motioned to approve the minutes from the prior meeting (2023-02-27). Ryan seconded.

3. **Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator updates**

At Town Meeting, we voted to fund the IREC for the next fiscal year. There were no nay votes at Town Meeting in the decision to supply the funding,

Ryan explained that Community Action subgroup is considering a set of events across IREC towns for different energy-related topics, separately taking on many of the themes that the April 1 Hartford Energize Upper Valley Event is consolidating. We discussed the event themes would be a good fit in Sharon, such as heat pumps (library) and/or electric lawn equipment. Ryan suggested we try to couple the event with the Repair Fair in Sharon in and around June. He will keep others apprised of the events in other towns as they become known.

4. **Sharon Community Resilience Forum**

Dee outlined that VCRD had agreed to facilitate a meeting in Sharon to revitalize the Community Resilience Organization that hopes to increase cohesion and collaboration in our community. The first planning meeting for this forum is on Friday, March 31 to begin planning a grander community meeting.

5. **Repair Fair in Sharon**

Not discussed.

6. **Window Dressers 2023**

Ryan reported on an organizational meeting he attended for a potential Window Dressers collaboration between Hartford, Hartland, and Sharon. Hartford and Hartland ran the program together last year in which the communities measured and built window inserts for themselves and their neighbors. They need volunteer co-leads for the overall program, client coordinator, measurer coordinator, volunteer coordinator, and food coordinator. Ryan committed to being one of the overall co-coordinators to ensure that we can bring the program to Sharon.

7. **Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) Mini-Grant**

The Selectboard was supportive of applying for this \$4,000 grant if someone or some entity was responsible for it. Ryan agreed to have the EC be responsible for these funds. We discussed what they could be used for, including funds for the Sharon Community Resilience Forum. Ryan will work with Nicola to get the grant application submitted.

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

We discussed propagating trees and use of the oil from the bitternut hickory for consumption and cooking.

Dee updated us on her Earth Day event with BALE on the South Royalton Green, which is scheduled to be from 10 AM to 2 PM.

9. **Other Business**

None discussed.

10. Next meeting was scheduled for April 24th, 2023 at 6 PM (2023-04-24 18:00)

Ryan adjourned the meeting at 7:08 PM.