

Sharon Energy Committee Meeting

Monday, August 28th, 2023 @ 06:00 PM

Sharon Town Office

15 School Street, Sharon VT 05065

2023-08-28 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 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 approve the minutes from the prior meeting (2023-05-22). Ryan seconded.

3. **Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator updates**

Ryan provided the following updates:

- The MERP Level II Assessment applications were submitted for the Town Garage (primary) and the Town Offices (secondary).
- The TRORC Climate Action For You website has been updated within the past month to reflect the current incentives available for residents. We are waiting for additional Inflation Reduction Act programs to be released by Federal and State actors in the coming months.

<https://www.trorc.org/programs/energy/irec/climateactionforyou/>

4. **WindowDressers 2023**

Ryan shared information on the progress of measuring windows to be included into the build. The measuring deadline is approaching in a couple weeks. Several homes in Sharon are getting inserts this year. The Community Build is at Damon Hall in Hartland from October 12 to October 18.

5. **EV Charging Infrastructure**

Ryan and Dee discussed the possibilities for EV charging infrastructure in Sharon.

Despite mediocre levels of EV adoption among drivers in region, the necessary infrastructure is already stretched thin. There is a general lack of charging capacity in the region, that is, high speed chargers are not always available when people “need” them.

We discussed the collection of opportunities available to utilize Federal and State funds to expand EV charging infrastructure. We agreed that the most obvious locations were Maplefields and the I-89 rest area. Dee agreed to draft letters to contact the appropriate entities to express the observed need of this infrastructure. In the case of Maplefields, this also includes directing them toward the considerable grants that are currently available.

The current EV charging infrastructure grants available are geared toward workplaces, which Ryan noted is a very practical location to charge EVs. He has already reached out to some of the larger employers in Sharon such as TSA, SES, Sharon Health Center to ensure they are aware of the available funds and help with the grants. Concurrently, the WRVSU continues to plan for the implementation of the EPA's electric school bus grant that includes infrastructure in Sharon. Ryan will work with the SU, TSA, and other interested parties to see what is possible, practical, and beneficial for the Town.

Ryan also noted that providing accessible e-bike charging is often overlooked and should be an important part of electrical vehicle charging infrastructure considerations.

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

Dee discussed some events she had hoped to attend.

We discussed our general dismay with the Clean Heat Standard but noted that it will be important to keep up with its implementation to help direct residents on navigating its impacts.

Ryan noted that he was finally able to get his personal road/cross bike back into service and active use.

7. **Other Business**

None discussed.

8. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 25th at 6 PM (2023-09-25 18:00)

Ryan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dee seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM.