

Sharon Energy Committee Meeting

Monday, September 25th, 2023 @ 06:00 PM

Outside the Sharon Town Office

15 School Street, Sharon VT 05065

2023-09-25 18:00

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

Present outside the Town Office: Dee Gish (EC), Ryan Haac (EC), and Jill Wilcox (EC).

Ryan called the meeting together at 18:09 (6:09 PM).

1. **Public Comment Period**

No comments.

2. **Approve previous meeting minutes**

Dee motioned to approve the minutes from the prior meeting (2023-08-28). Ryan seconded.

3. **Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator updates**

The MERP Level II Energy Audit Assessments were awarded for both the Town Garage and the Town Offices. The next step is to schedule the energy audits of these buildings, which are provided by professionals at no direct cost to the Town.

Dee also mentioned two Renewable Energy Standard input sessions being held locally this week. They are put on by VT Department of Public Service and hosted by regional planning commissions.

4. **WindowDressers 2023**

We discussed the transition of the group from getting windows measured to planning to build them. The Community Build will take place October 12 to October 18 at Damon Hall in Hartland. Inserts will be built for several households in Sharon. Likewise, folks in Sharon receiving custom inserts are helping to build them. There are still a lot of volunteer slots at the Community Build that remain to be filled.

5. **EV Charging Infrastructure**

Ryan provided an update on the EV charging opportunities currently being explored in the village.

After meeting with the Selectboard about an eBus charging location at the Old School House, Ryan worked with WRVSU to reassess the bus charging infrastructure to be more practical for SES. WRVSU is moving forward with an RFP for a dual port Level 2 EV charger adjacent to the School Street Circle (between the circle and the SES parking

lot). In this scenario, the eBus will be able to park and charge in the location on the circle where the diesel bus currently sits.

He also mentioned that he is still exploring other opportunities to implement the current EV charger grants in Town are being explored.

6. **Sungen Solar Sharon**

We discussed the offer from the owner of the solar project in the Industrial Park to sell the Project to the Town. Although ownership of the Project will be profitable in the long run, we agreed that the Town does not have the capacity for site management nor appetite for taking on more responsibilities. We agreed that a co-operative local ownership model might be more appropriate and brainstormed ideas about how local ownership could lead to improved power availability and local grid reliability in the future. The existing power production contract terms are extremely favorable (\$0.30/kWh) and thus the net present value of the Project and the existing contract is relatively high. Nonetheless, the renewable attributes of the energy produced by the project are likely stripped from the project as fungible credits to be applied to energy consumption in another state.

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

Jill brought some pear juice from the raining harvest of pears. She also reported that after an extended process of trying to get the work completed, a heat pump was recently successfully installed at her home. She also mentioned that she would be talking about food preservation at the Repair Fair on September 30 at the Royalton/Bethel Transfer Station.

Dee commented on the conclusions of a recent Energy Action Network report that suggests that VT is not meeting its pledged emissions targets overall. We expressed general skepticism with the actual progress made on a Statewide level, noting that the report was likely too optimistic about overall progress on decreasing demand on the planet.

8. **Other Business**

None discussed.

9. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, October 23rd at 6 PM (2023-09-25 18:00)

Ryan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jill seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.