

Sharon Energy Committee Meeting

Monday, October 23rd, 2023 @ 06:00 PM

Sharon Town Office

15 School Street, Sharon VT 05065

2023-10-23 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: Dee Gish (EC) and Ryan Haac (EC, Chair).

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 (2023-09-25). Ryan seconded.

3. **Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator updates**

The Climate Action For You website is getting some updates. Dee suggested having a one-page summary of the website be part of the updates – Ryan will suggest this to Jeff at their upcoming meeting.

Dee mentioned some specific electric vehicle infrastructure grants that are being allocated – Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) and National Electric Vehicle Initiative (NEVI). Sharon has a good chance of being selected for funding. She wanted to see if the IREC could find more information about plans and demonstrated the need for vehicle charging in Sharon to improve our chances of receiving funding.

4. **WindowDressers 2023 recap**

We discussed the successfully completed Hartland, Hartford, and Sharon Community Build (Oct 12 to Oct 18). Sharon was well represented with volunteers and window inserts - 40 inserts out of about 200 total built. We agreed that it was a worthwhile endeavor and plan to pursue the program next year. Ryan opined that it would be easier to increase participation from Sharon if the Community Build were closer than Hartland.

5. **Sungen Sharon Solar redux**

Ryan explained that he attended a recent Selectboard meeting to discuss the possibility of the Town taking ownership of the Sungen Solar array. A couple of the main points were that

- The project sits on 20 acres of open land on the opposite side of the Pomfret site of the White River
- The energy produced by the array and sold directly through a SPEED (Sustainably Priced Energy Enterprise Development) program contract is relatively high value, which leads to a relatively high net present value of the array (\$6 million+) under the current contract.
- After the SPEED contract ends in 2037, a renewed power purchase agreement would need to be in place to continue selling power to the grid. At that point, the renewable attributes of the array could be retained instead of handing them over to the utility.
- The project does not need to be decommissioned – it will simply produce slightly less power than when it was originally installed (80% in 2037)
- The Selectboard thought it was a worthwhile opportunity to better understand and additional inquiry was needed, so we will seek some professional advice.

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

We discussed the promise of district geothermal systems but were unable to determine how it could fit into Sharon.

We also discussed some DPS listening sessions that we each participated in. Ryan attended one in-person in Bethel that was sparsely attended but there was vigorous and productive discussion. Dee attended a virtual presentation that was marginally informative and discussion was not as robust.

7. **Other Business**

None discussed.

8. The next meeting was scheduled for:

Monday, November 27th at 6 PM (2023-11-27 18:00)

Ryan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dee seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:47 (6:47 PM).