

Sharon Energy Committee Meeting

Monday, February 26th, 2024 @ 06:00 PM

Sharon Town Office

15 School Street, Sharon VT 05065

2024-02-26 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), Ryan Haac (EC, Chair), and Jill Wilcox (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 (2023-11-27 18:00). Ryan seconded.

3. **Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator updates**

Ryan explained that after the resignation of the prior IREC (Jeff Grout), Harry Falconer (MERP administrator at TRORC) was helping to fill in with the transition to a new individual to fill the role. After a couple weeks of working with the IREC Steering Committee, the Steering Committee members each endorsed Harry to fill the open IREC position due to his organizational skills and proclivities that the job demands. He was hired not long after (Jan 2024) and has effectively integrated himself into the position.

Harry has worked to make contact and gain clarifications about the eligibility for charging infrastructure in Sharon. Ryan is working with the Midway Station to apply for an EVSE grant. We await further information about the NEVI grant.

4. **Town Meeting Breakfast**

Ryan thanked Dee for agreeing to organize the breakfast and offered his support. We noted that several other community members offered to bring simple dishes to share.

Jill noted that she would not be participating in the breakfast and felt that communal food sharing was a bad idea due to the potential for spreading infectious diseases, though she did offer some helpful peripherals for the event.

5. **Repair Fair**

Jill shared that the next Repair Fair would be held in Randolph on Thursday, March 14 at 6 PM at the VTSU Randolph campus center ("SHAPE"). We discussed other potential fixers and presenters there. Jill said there will be a seed swap and food will be served, as well.

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

We discussed the potential for the Energy Committee to assist the Sharon Elementary School in securing a grant to help expand the PV system at SES.

We also talked about the promise of thermal energy networks and how the Village could benefit from such an infrastructure investment. We did agree that it was not a realistic project with the other financial pressures and demands on taxpayers at this time.

We also discussed some recent press around the Yellowbud /Bitternut/Oilnut hickory trees and their nuts, which can be pressed for valuable oil for human consumption.

7. **Other Business**

Dee suggested that an umbrella organization (i.e., a non-profit) could be useful for organizing many of the unaffiliated groups in town (Sharon Connects task forces, Food Shelf, Seven Stars, the Sprouty, etc.). It was noted that any such organization would be independent of the Town (and thus outside of the Energy Committee purview directly).

Dee asked about WindowDressers. Ryan debriefed the group on a Hartford/ Hartland/ Sharon 2023 season wrap-up meeting that he attended last month. He noted that successes were reported all around and shared that he agreed to be Measurement Coordinator again next year. Thus, Sharon would be involved again. Ryan said he was looking to have the event closer to Sharon (or in Sharon) to increase turnout from Sharon and solicited ideas. He said he hoped that space in the Sharon Church would be available to host the week-long community build in 2024.

8. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 25th at 6 PM (2024-03-25 18:00)

Ryan made a motion to adjourn. Dee seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:16 (7:16 PM).