

Sharon Energy Committee Meeting

Monday, March 25th, 2024 @ 06:00 PM

Sharon Town Office

15 School Street, Sharon VT 05065

2024-03-25 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: Harry Falconer (IREC), Dee Gish (EC), Ryan Haac (EC, Chair)

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 (2024-02-26 18:00). Ryan seconded.

3. **Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator updates**

Harry introduced himself and detailed the initiatives he has been working on collectively for IREC towns including the Thetford Solar Array, the "Climate Action for You" informational website, and an electric hand tools showcase at an upcoming Windsor-Orange Road Foreman meeting in May.

He detailed some Sharon specific projects including exploring funding options for bringing EV charging infrastructure to Sharon (NEVI and EVSE) and MERP energy audits of the Town Office and Town Garage. We noted that Harry might be able to help with some logistics regarding the Town Garage once a plan for that was better formulate. We agreed to wait until the MERP energy assessment reports were received and digested before getting direction from the Selectboard on this issue.

He also talked about other Projects he is working on for other Towns to give us an idea of the breadth of his work, including supporting infrastructure projects in Woodstock and Thetford.

Harry left the meeting at 7:01

4. **Recent Events Debrief - Town Meeting and Repair Fair**

We agreed that the scale of the Town Meeting breakfast was appropriate. The coffee and breakfast food were well received yet could have used some raspberry muffins and some savory items.

Ryan reported about the recent Repair Fair at VTC in Randolph. It was well attended by both fixers and people with stuff to fix.

5. **Upper Valley E-bike Lending Library (UVELL) - Plan**

Ryan explained that the UVELL group is formulating its schedule and provided the possible dates that the bikes could be hosted in Sharon. We decided upon the first two weeks of May. Ryan will take care of setting up logistics (schedule, demos, etc) and plan to do demos at the schools as in previous years.

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

Ryan shared that he completed an install of a Level 2 EV charger at his home, which he is excited about because it has integrated monitoring to determine overall electricity consumption, i.e. fuel in the case of an EV, for the vehicle. He mentioned that he had owned the car for a couple months with only a 120V wall plug to charge it, which he said was generally more than sufficient for his family's usage. Dee mentioned she is excited to be passing on her legacy EV to her son and getting a newer EV. She also mentioned a program put on by the Environmental Law Institute called "Leveraging the Benefits of Plant-Based Proteins for Municipal Climate Action." She suggested that the program could dovetail with the the Sharon Food Justice Garden. We shared our experiences growing and storing legumes.

7. **Other Business**

We discussed planning for the Window Dressers 2024 Build, including trying to find a location in or near Sharon for the community build in the fall. Ryan will follow up with Ken Wright about some possible location in Sharon.

Ryan also brought up GMP's bring your own device battery backup (BYOD) program, which provides a direct rebate of up to \$10k toward the installation of a home battery system in return for access to the battery for shaving peaks in demand on the grid. It's a practical partnership, particularly in locations where the grid is constrained, such as Sharon. An additional incentive per kW of battery backup is provided for meters in constrained areas, such as Sharon.

8. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 22nd at 6 PM (2024-04-22 18:00)

Ryan made a motion to adjourn. Dee seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 19:35 (7:35 PM).