

Sharon Energy Committee Meeting

Monday, April 29th, 2024 @ 06:00 PM

Sharon Town Office

15 School Street, Sharon VT 05065

2024-04-29 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 18:04 (6:04 PM).

1. **Public Comment Period**

No comments.

2. **Approve previous meeting minutes**

Dee motioned to approve the minutes from the prior meeting (2024-03-25 18:00). Ryan seconded.

3. **Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator updates**

Ryan gave an update on the EV charging grant programs that Harry has been pursuing. We are otherwise waiting for the MERP assessment for next steps on the Town Office and Town Garage.

4. **Upper Valley E-bike Lending Library (UVELL) - May 1 to May 15**

Ryan reported that he received the e-bikes the day before the meeting. We discussed the schedule and logistics for borrowing and demo days.

He also mentioned that Vital Communities has secured funding sources for the program and they are no longer asking for donations to participate. In our past couple years of participation, most or all of our EC budget has gone toward this program. Ryan opined that this was money well spent because it helped the program get on its feet, prove its resilience, and garner its own funding.

5. **WindowDressers 2024 Updates**

We are still looking for places to hold the build in Sharon. Jill will reach out to the Sharon Firehouse to see if that might be a possibility. Lynn is checking on other locations in Hartford. Otherwise, the event will be at Damon Hall in Hartland in the Fall.

We will start measuring this summer.

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

Ryan lamented about the hollowness of many of the mainstream actions and dominant discourse with respect to the unfolding climate emergency. He relayed his observation that most of the top-down solutions simply double-down on the same flawed model of global economic growth, endless consumption, and corporate control. We talked about some ways that we pull out of this system when we can, which led to a lively discussion about our past and present experiences with overly opportunistic (“invasive”) plants, particularly woody ones such as Japanese Honeysuckle and Burning Bush. We also discussed some methods and ongoing experiments regarding jumping worms and also shared some insights about personal tick control .

7. **Other Business**

Jill mentioned the desire for doing another Repair Fair in Sharon. The next one over the summer is in Brookfield. She suggested potentially combining with the Sharon Connects. Ryan suggested that the Repair Fair might be able to be integrated as a Skill Swap next year, too.

We discussed past, ongoing, and future direct actions related to destabilizing events such as the climate emergency and ongoing genocide in Gaza.

8. The regular meeting in May lands on Memorial Day, so the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 24th at 6 PM (2024-06-24 18:00).

Ryan made a motion to adjourn. Dee seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:14 (7:14 PM).