

Sharon Energy Committee Meeting

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

Sharon Town Office

15 School Street, Sharon VT 05065

2024-11-25 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: Dee Gish (EC), Ryan Haac (EC, Chair), and Jill Wilcox (EC)

Ryan called the meeting together at 18:25 (6:25 PM).

1. Public Comment Period

No comments

2. Approve previous meeting minutes

Dee made a motion to approve the minutes from the prior meeting (2024-09-23 18:00). Jill seconded.

3. Shared Energy Coordinator updates

Ryan relayed the fact that the Town did not not receive the Stage 3 MERP funding from the State of Vermont (funded through ARPA).

However, as part of the process, the Level II building energy assessments of the Town Office and Town Garage were instrumental in identifying the state of affairs of these buildings. Ryan will work with Harry to find funding mechanisms for implementing the main deficiency found in the Town Office, which is the health and safety issue of vermiculite insulation in the walls (vermiculite insulation is known/assumed to contain asbestos). Ryan feels that the simplest remediation is sealing the insulation into the walls and we should get a professional opinion on the matter. Any work or discussion of the Town Garage will wait for direction from the Selectboard, as they need to make a plan for how to deal with that situation.

Additionally, Harry is also exploring an upcoming Department of Libraries grant opportunity and potential funding for a heat pump in the Old Town Hall.

4. WindowDressers 2024 Debrief

We discussed the outcome of the volunteering sessions. There were some difficulties with the venue (VFW) but everything went okay. We made about

200 window inserts for folks in the region, including over a dozen extra large inserts. Town groupings move around next year and we go north to group with Bethel and Randolph instead of Hartford and Hartland, for example.

5. **Village Transportation Scoping Study**

Ryan explained the purpose of the study and Ryan recapitulated the discussions that he had with the Selectboard, who ultimately suggested Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative, which had the most features of all the projects. All alternatives would result in the removal of street parking on Route 14 between Route 132 and Faybrook Rd. The Selectboard's recommendation does not mean the Project will happen but it does enable an 80/20 funding scheme. However, none of the alternatives have the ability to affect the speed limit.

We discussed the appropriateness of lowering the speed limit to 25 mph for pedestrian safety and to respect the compact nature of the village. We figured other towns have similar concerns. We postulated that the State of Vermont could apply a rule of 25 mile per hour speed limit in village designations and most people would be content with that. We could not come up with any real determinants to doing so statewide. Ryan offered to look into avenues for progress on this issue, such as through legislative action and/or a petition.

6. **Continue Discussion Regarding Committee Direction, Name, and Scope**

We discussed the need for re-envisioning the group and our purpose. Ryan asked some thought-provoking questions for the group to consider for the continuation of this discussion at the next meeting.

7. **Updates on Actions, Goals, Initiatives**

None discussed.

8. **Other Business**

None discussed.

9. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 27th at 6 PM (2025-01-27 18:00).

Ryan made a motion to adjourn. Jill seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:24 (7:24 PM).