

## **Sharon Energy Committee Meeting**

Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 06:00 PM

[Outside of the] Sharon Town Office

15 School Street, Sharon VT 05065

2025-08-25 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) and Ryan Haac (EC, Chair).

Ryan called the meeting together at 18:06 (6:06 PM).

### **1. Public Comment Period**

No comments

### **2. Approve previous meeting minutes**

Dee made a motion to approve the minutes from the prior meeting (2025-07-28 18:00). Ryan seconded.

### **3. Shared Energy Coordinator updates**

Ryan provided the following updates and information from the Shared Energy Coordinator:

The annual(ish) in-person Steering Committee meeting was held in Fairlee in mid-August. Fairlee joined the group this year and the position is thus fully funded. Some of the other Towns are at various stages of struggling with the EV fast charger grant program implementations. In contrast, Strafford has been working to implement basic Level 2 chargers at a public location with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party mechanism to complete the transaction for fuel and they have good traction. We are following that closely, as it represents the lowest bar to entry for a publicly accessible charger.

In regard to installing new solar PV on the Elementary School roof, Ryan recalled his prior conversation with Harry that the grants and tax credits do not provide fertile ground for financing arrangements for net-metered projects. Additionally, GMP is actively stifling more PV net-metered on the grid. Any projects would need to be financed publicly and would not be eligible for the 30% tax credit because it has been covetously rescinded at the end of the year.

Ryan and Harry are going to help with the specification and bid documents for an autonomously powered radio transmitter for the Town in Downer Forest.

4. **Upper Valley e-bike Lending Library Planning Update**

Ryan delayed the e-bike library until September to have the opportunity to overlap the residency period with the schools being session. Dee pointed out that it also overlaps with the Sprouty now, so we will have to take that into account with scheduling the bike transfers.

5. **WindowDressers Planning Update**

We discussed progress on measuring inserts, site logistics, and food. The Community Build is at the Sharon Church from October 2 to October 8.

Ryan reported that he is nearly done with measuring and most other measuring is complete for the build. We will end up just under 150 inserts to build in October, which is a bit shy of our goal (175). The Park and Ride will be still under construction during the Community Build at the Sharon Church so we will plan to have volunteers park at the Sharon Church and potentially at the Lighthouse, if needed. Dee will continue to help solicit food donations and oversee the meals on Friday-Sunday; others will manage that during the week.

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

One important function of the group is disseminating accurate and helpful information about existing rebates to get financial assistance with household expenses. Ryan will ask Harry for help assessing programs that are going away and those that remain funded. We could also consider bringing in experts and resources to community events.

7. **Other Business**

Could there be a local firewood supply from Ashley Forest instead of commercial logging? How does Norwich's community firewood supply work? Dee said she would look into that.

Ryan committed to looking into financial assistance (like heating assistance) guidance from Vital Communities as they have put out in past winters to distribute this winter.

8. The next meeting was *tentatively* scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of the month: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 6:30 PM. Ryan will check with other members and those who have expressed that the existing day and time were negating their participation.

Dee made a motion to adjourn. Ryan seconded.  
The meeting was adjourned at 18:53 (6:53 PM).