

## MINUTES

### SUNDERLAND ENERGY COMMITTEE (SEC)

MEETING (ZOOM)

**May 5, 2021 – 7pm**

Present: Noah Forest, Andrew McKeever, Dixie Zens, Jeff Dexter

Absent: John Herrington, Becca Herrington

- 1.) Meeting was called to order at 7pm.
- 2.) Jeff Dexter volunteered to be Sec'ry.
- 3.) Andrew McKeever will look into Hill Farm Inn wanting to install an EV charging station and if there's any info we could help provide them with.
- 4.) Noah Forest will reach out to the Sunderland Elementary School to offer our help with their goal of teaching more about climate change. He will also see if we can help Jillian Joyce (teacher at BBA) and to see if she would be a future guest on a Committee mtg.
- 5.) When Becca returns we'll hear what she found out about sharing the tech aspects of using the Middlesex VT Energy Committee web page template with our Town website.
- 6.) Jeff reported on Green Up Day in town....a big success: 42 volunteers, 17 roads cleaned, 1,500 lbs of litter disposed of. Both Cassella and GMP had teams involved.
- 7.) Jeff still working on drafting a mass mailing postcard to town residents re Energy Committee resources & availability to provide info to town residents.
- 8.) Jeff reported on our Window Dressers project: the "community-build" will occur in Arlington in early November; the goal is to build approx. 200 window inserts for area homes to stop window drafts and help cut energy consumption by up to 20%. Bennington will also be doing a "Southshire Build" the week before or after ours. All Committee members have expressed willingness to work on this. Other volunteers from Dorset, Manchester and Arlington will also be involved in our "Northshire Build".
- 9.) Andrew will scout around for any homes for GNAT's Energy Efficiency video series. Andrew has filmed both Dixie's and Jeff's homes highlighting all the energy-efficiency items they utilize. One possibility for a new vid is Noah's geodesic home. We will also check with Becca and John when back re anything they could share. Dixie will also check with a friend on Powder Horn Rd.
- 10.) Jeff gave a legislative update re the American Recovery Plan Act (US). Approx \$1 Billion will come to Vermont. Approx \$200 Million will be for climate-change/energy related projects like climate-change mitigation; E-

vehicle charging stations; energy efficiency improvement in buildings; more incentives for residents to buy energy efficient items for heating, cooling and transportation. Housing and Broadband projects will also use the \$\$\$. By the "per capita formula" noted in a PR release, approx. \$275,000 could be coming to Sunderland...to be spent on specific items over the next 3 years. The first check may arrive here in June...another one 6 months from then. More info will be forthcoming from the state. Much PR and then public input will be needed to determine how the \$\$\$ will be spent (pursuant to regulations/requirements that come with the \$\$\$).

Jeff also noted there are 33 climate-change bills before the State Legislature (that is due to adjourn in 2-3 weeks). Seven concern transportation...others concern the Green New Deal and carbon emissions reduction.

- 11.) Dixie and Andrew said Sunderland's becoming a VT Climate Action Community and also joining the VT Climate Pledge Coalition will be discussed at the 5/10 Select Board meeting. Both of these actions are free and will then make technical assistance, training and information available to the Town to help with reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- 12.) Our next meeting is set (via zoom) for Weds. June 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- 13.) Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.