

SUNDERLAND ENERGY COMMITTEE (SEC)
MEETING (ZOOM)
November 17, 2021 – 7pm – Town Hall
Minutes

- Jeff Dexter called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM
- In attendance were the SEC Committee members: Jeff Dexter, Chair, Andrew McKeever, Becca Harrington, John Harrington, Dixie Zens and by remote, Noah Forest, and guest speaker Callie Fishburn Community Development Coordinator with Bennington County Regional Commission was also in attendance.
- Dixie Zens was appointed Meeting Secretary to take Minutes (for inclusion on Town webpage)
- Noah Forest gave an update on the Young Adult/Youth/School interface. Burr & Burton Academy's (BBA's) Environmental Club is active in pursuit of energy conservation and cleaning up our air and water. The Club is planning an event on Earth Day in April 2022 and will solicit speakers to comment on energy conservation and other environmental issues. Another BBA Club: The Justice/Equity/Inclusiveness, is also interested in supporting those in need of support, including heating and cooling their home, due to income, ethnicity, religion or personal identity. Their next meeting will be on Dec 3rd at BBA.
- No new updates from the VT Legislative. The VT Climate Council is scheduled to publish their comprehensive report on Vermont's Climate challenges and purposed remediations to present to the State Legislature.
- Andrew and Jeff gave a report on the recently completed Window Dressers Build in Bennington County. Two separate builds were conducted, one in Bennington at the old High School (Southshire) and the other in Arlington for the Northshire. Window inserts were assembled by many shifts of dedicated volunteers. These wooden framed inserts are covered on 2 sides with clear plastic and have compliant foam attached to the outside of the frames to allow a snug fit into pre-measured windows for homes throughout Bennington County. About 175 Inserts were built in Bennington and, with help from some of the folks from the 1st build, about 250 Inserts were assembled in Arlington with a great team of local volunteers. For a first-time build, the process went extraordinarily smoothly, finishing an hour and a half before the deadline. A meeting is scheduled on Nov. 23rd to discuss the builds and seek ideas for further streamlining the process.

- In a discussion of Town power equipment, Jeff inquired about replacing fossil fuel equipment with more eco-friendly models. As the current equipment is in very good condition, it was suggested that the folks from the Town Garage project needs for several years in the future, so alternatives can be investigated and proposed at town meeting for a community vote. Possibly adding a mini-split heat pump to the town office and town garage may eliminate the need for oil heat, while adding a/c to the facilities. Solar panels could be an energy save with the open, south facing roof on the Town Office.
- Guest Speaker: Callie Fishburn, Community Development Coordinator from, BCRC – discussed Energy Committee ideas/goals for 2022. Ms. Fishburn was very pleased with the Sunderland Town Plan, which has a very comprehensive energy section. She noted that the Window Dressers Project was a great community effort which will make a big impact on reducing fossil fuel usage and heating costs. Ms. Fishburn told the committee that BCRC is a great resource for information, ideas and contacts for energy conservation. She plans on scheduling a meeting with all Bennington County Energy Committees possibly in January 2022 to discuss goals and projects for our committees.
- There was no new or other business brought up for discussion.
- Next meeting will be January 19, 2022 at 7 PM.
- The meeting was Adjourned at 8:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Dixie Zens