

SUNDERLAND ENERGY COMMITTEE (SEC)  
MEETING (ZOOM)  
**January 19, 2022**  
**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 Herrington, John Herrington, Dixie Zens, and Noah Forest.
  
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- John Herrington volunteered to take Minutes (for inclusion on Town webpage)
  
- Noah Forest gave an update on Burr & Burton Academy's (BBA's) Environmental Club. The Club is planning an event for Earth Day in April; and a VT Digger climate report card project is moving forward. Another BBA group, The Justice/Equity/Inclusiveness Club, is in their planning stage. In terms of our coordinating with the Sunderland Elementary School, there is no time for teachers this semester to work on any projects, but the principal has said that we can create a flyer that students can take home to their parents.
  
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- Jeff Dexter reported that the State Legislature is just getting under way. According to our representatives in Montpelier, Seth Bongartz and Kathleen James, several energy issues are on the table: the need to build out the states EV (Electric Vehicle) infrastructure; in transitioning to clean energy, fossil fuel dealers will need to be part of the process; to be better prepared for weather emergencies like tropical storm Irene, we need to restore forests and stream riparian zones to help mitigate flooding; there are \$250 million in ARPA money available for energy and climate change related projects; consideration needs to be given to equity energy issues this legislative session. More details will be forthcoming as the session heats up.
  
- Jeff Dexter reported on the first meeting of the Bennington Coalition of Energy Committees. This first meeting was an opportunity for different town energy committee participants to introduce each other. Currently, Callie Fishburn of BCRC is serving as a coordinator for the various county town energy committees, but she has other responsibilities at BCRC. The coalition started discussions on the possible need for a county-wide (paid) Energy Coordinator to help all towns with energy-efficiency related tasks. More research and discussion to follow.
  
- The committee discussed setting goals for 2022:
- \* Performing Sunderland town government energy audits: elementary school, town hall, town garage, vehicles and equipment.

- \* Holding a seminar on green job career opportunities for today's students. Seminars could be held at BBA, Arlington High School, SW VT Career Development Center. All committee members were in concurrence that this project should be a priority.
- \*. Continue coordinating Green Up Day in Sunderland.
- There was no new or other business brought up for discussion.
- Next meeting will be a Zoom meeting on February 16, 2022 at 7 PM.
- The meeting was Adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
John Herrington