

SUNDERLAND ENERGY COMMITTEE (SEC)
MEETING (ZOOM)
May 18, 2022
Minutes

- Jeff Dexter called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM
- In attendance were SEC Committee members: Jeff Dexter, Chair, Becca Herrington, John Herrington, and Dixie Zens. Absent were Noah Forest and Andrew McKeever.
- Jeff volunteered to take Minutes.
- Last month's meeting Minutes were approved. (Motion by Dixie, seconded by Becca.)
- Discussion of the just concluded State Legislative session took place. Jeff noted it was, overall, a good session for climate change-type legislation being passed.
 - 1.) The Clean Heat Standard, H.715, passed the House and Senate but was vetoed by the Governor...and the veto-override vote in the Legislature failed by ONE vote. Maybe it will be back in the next session. It would have established a credit system to incentivize heating companies in Vermont to help their customers use less fossil fuels. It would have helped VT'ers, especially lower income residents, heat their homes and buildings with access to more cost-effective, efficient and local heating solutions.
 - 2.) The Transportation Bill, H.736, is also in the Senate. It would provide \$22 Million to cut the cost of EVs and \$19 Million for EV charging stations; and
 - 3.) The Municipal Energy Resilience Bill, H.518, passed the House. It will provide \$48 Million in efficiency and clean heating options for municipal buildings across the state (and could help Sunderland with energy renovations to our Town Garage if deemed something we want to invest in).
- The Bennington Energy Committee Coalition meets once a month (zoom). It's a group of area energy committees sharing thoughts, goals, successes and challenges.
- The Town Garage's energy use and building layout was audited by Heat Squad. The final report is attached and called for many changes to make the building more energy efficient and much less reliant on fossil fuels. Action would also address the fact (as worded in our Municipal Plan, adopted in August 2018): *The town garage – in contrast to the offices – is notoriously energy inefficient with minimal insulation in its aging metal construction. More than twice as much propane is currently used to heat the garage than the town offices. Though the town has made patch improvements to the garage in recent years, a comprehensive building upgrade is needed and could deliver significant savings to the town over time.*

All Energy Committee members will review the report for “next meeting discussion” and to make suggestions to the Select Board. Possible funding for

- change might come from the newly passed H.518 (noted above).
- The Town Hall (free) Energy Assessment by Efficiency Vermont was performed today...Dixie and John accompanied the Eff VT person on her tour. She commented that the walk-through shows little change is needed due to the building fine design and the fact it's only 8 years old....much newer than most town halls in the state. One suggestion was to rely on the office area heat pumps much more for heat than what we had been doing. Another possible suggestion was a heat pump to heat/cool the meeting room. More discussion to follow.
 - Green Up Day was a big success. 47 volunteers collected 115 bags of litter off town roads. Much junk-furniture was also discarded as well as 79 tires. A big thanks to all the volunteers involved and to Marc and Josh of our Highway Department.
 - We will be a big part of the 2022 Window Dressers (window inserts) project. Tentative site of the build is the Arlington American Legion or a building off Airport Road in Manchester. Tentative dates for the build are October 13th or 20th. More info to follow after Jeff and Dixie join the Northshire WD Committee on a tour of the American Legion on May 19th.
 - Youth involvement goal: Jeff made a presentation to the Dorset Elementary School's 7th and 8th grade journalism class on what a local Energy Committee does (and, to a lesser degree, how climate change affects our area). Jim Hand of the Dorset Energy Committee joined Jeff.
 - There was no new or other business brought up for discussion.
 - Next meeting will be on **Weds., June 29th at 7pm** (zoom).
 - The meeting was Adjourned at 8:13PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Dexter