

SUNDERLAND ENERGY COMMITTEE (SEC)  
MEETING  
**January 11, 2023**  
**Minutes**

- Jeff Dexter called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM
  
- In attendance were SEC Committee members: Jeff Dexter - Chair, Becca Herrington, John Herrington, Andrew McKeever, and Katharine Clemow. Dixie Zens was not able to join the meeting.
  
- 
- John Herrington volunteered to take Minutes (for inclusion on Town webpage)
  
- Becca moved, and Andrew seconded, to approve the Minutes from the last committee meeting on November 30, 2022. Approved.
  
- 
- Jeff reported that an official Energy Audit of the town hall has not been made yet. Jeff, Andrew and Dixie attended a Meet and Greet with Callie Fishburn of BCRC and their new executive director, Bill Colvin on December 5th. A follow up question to them is: do we need an Energy Audit as a prerequisite to receive Act 172 money? Andrew will contact BCRC for an answer to this.
  
- Jeff reported on two estimates that we have received for additional heat pumps for the town hall. One estimate was from Tim Harte Heat Pump Installations of Castleton; and a second estimate was from Bill Morrissey of Weatherization Works of Pawlet. The two estimates are a bit confusing to compare. Jeff and Katharine are going to prepare a succinct comparison and presentation for the Selectboard to consider at their next meeting. A dry run of this presentation will be made to this committee via a Zoom call on January 17th at 7 p.m.
  
- \* Katharine is going to contact VLCT to seek help in applying for Act 172 and the state portion of ARPA funding for our town hall heat pump installation project and possible solar panels. We have decided to put on hold funding for a backup solar battery system, and installation of a hot water heat pump.
  
- 
- \* The Committee also discussed the solar panel bids (for Town Hall). It was agreed to ask the providers what the minimum number of panels would be to provide power to the Town Hall, and, if we installed more than that amount, how easy would it be to apply excess energy credits to our Town Garage.
  
- 
- For both the additional (new) Town Hall heat pump and the solar power, it was agreed that we ask the providers if they can give us a “cost savings

- analysis.”
- - \* Carl Bucholt, chair of the Manchester Energy Committee, has approached each town energy committee in the Northshire to consider participating in an Energy Fair on Earth Day in April. Our committee agrees that we would like to participate, but it needs to be expanded in scope so that we are not just reaching the same small choir of people who have participated in the past. We are suggesting that family activities be included, and that we invite Long Trail School and BBA students and their environmental clubs to be involved.
  - \* Andrew asked for feedback from the committee regarding his proposal for planning a Climate Change Transition Forum in the Northshire in late spring or summer. The consensus was positive. Everyone felt there is a need to have a broad public discussion of climate change that would include panelists who favor immediate action as well as panelists who question that urgency and who favor a more reasonable approach of transitioning from fossil fuels to renewables, particularly what are the impacts on the local and state economy when rapid measures are taken. We need to allow for all points of view to be heard, and not just from climate change advocates. Should we consider expanding the forum to a county-wide venue? Where should it be held? Who would be the moderator? Several panelist suggestions have been made. How will we publicize the event? This topic will be discussed further at our next meeting.
  - 
  - □ Jeff handed out an “Overview & Background” paper from the Town of Strafford on their Green Procurement Policy. Jeff is asking that we consider this for discussion at our next meeting.
  - 
  - □ Next meeting will be at the town hall on Wednesday, February 22nd at 7 PM.
  - □ The meeting was Adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
John Herrington