

Minutes - DRAFT  
Sunderland Energy Committee  
April 26, 2023  
6:00pm, Zoom

Present: Jeff Dexter (Chair), Andrew McKeever, Dixie Zens, Katharine Clemow

Meeting was called to order by Jeff at 6:04pm

Katharine volunteered to be Recording Secretary

Minutes from the March 29, 2023 meeting were approved pending an edit to the maximum grant amount for a Town Hall and Town Garage Energy Efficiency MERP Implementation Grant. The grant cap amount indicates \$250k instead of the correct \$500k. Jeff to re-send amended minutes. (Dixie moved; Andrew seconded)

**MERP Mini Grants Update:** SEC application has not been submitted yet, will likely submit under the sub-category for “promotional materials” but Jeff will touch base with Callie to confirm that our proposed Climate Forum is applicable. Funds could also be used to print and distribute the survey created to poll residents on climate concerns. This survey would also collect email addresses for the creation of a list serve.

Estimated Costs Associated with Survey:

\$300 postage

\$25 printing

TOTAL = \$325

Estimated Costs Associated with Climate Forum:

\$500 lodging (1 night, 2 rooms @ The Hampton Inn, Manchester)

\$200 misc

\$100 venue fee (Manchester Community Library)

\$800 dinner (panelists, moderator, and committee members)

\$150 mileage reimbursement

TOTAL = \$1,750\*

\*should an honorarium be offered as well?

**Climate Forum Update:** a final date in September needs to be identified. The committee would like to avoid weekends, Mondays, and Tuesdays. Andrew to check with the areas Chambers of Commerce regarding their event calendars. Identified 9/27 or 9/28 as potential dates.

- Panelists and Moderator Updates: possibilities still include Becca White, Rob Roper, and Curt Stager. Matt Cota and Neil Lunderville are committed. Andrew is still working to determine the final mix
- Event Description: the committee will review Andrew’s description of the forum to share with potential presenters along with the final date and inclusions. This text could also be used for the MERP application and could be distributed to other area EC’s.
- Venue and Parking: potential sites include the Manchester Community Library (150 person cap), BBA auditorium (200 person cap). Parking at the MCL would need to be determined. The committee discussed whether a school venue would encourage younger participants.

**Town Garage Capstone Study:** Jeff presented a capstone study taking place in Johnson, VT regarding town municipal buildings and energy efficiency. He will look further into this study and its findings and report back to the committee.

**Town Hall Audit:** waiting for an update from Callie.

**Green Procurement Policy:** Jeff presented a policy (adopted in 2021 by the Strafford VT Select Board) that would allow SEC to advise our Select Board on greener options for town equipment purchases. This advisory capacity would also allow SEC members to research and present funds, grants, and rebates available for the conversion of fossil fuel-burning equipment. Jeff will contact the Strafford EC to get additional info on how their policy is working. Our Committee should review the wording of Strafford's policy to see if anything should be changed (e.g. to fit Sunderland's needs) so that we can discuss and decide on submitting it to our Select Board for adoption.

**New and Other Business:** the VT News Guide will be offering a special section on energy and the environment. Area EC's can advertise in this space and it might be useful for events like Wind Dressers. Jeff to research if there is a cost associated with this.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 31st @ 6pm, location and/or zoom pending.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm.