

Minutes

Sunderland Energy Committee Meeting

March 29, 2023 6pm via ZOOM

Present: Katherine Clemow, Dixie Zens, Andrew McKeever, Jeff Dexter (Chair), Becca Herrington, John Herrington.

Meeting was called to order by Jeff at 6:07pm.

Jeff volunteered to be Recording Sec'y.

Minutes from last meeting, Feb. 22, 2023, were approved/accepted. (Dixie moved; John seconded.)

The MERP (Municipal Energy Resilience Program....Act 172) Mini-Grants (\$4,000 max.) were discussed. It was decided such a grant would be applied for to pay for the Transition Forum expenses (e.g. venue; travel, meals, hotel for panelists; refreshments; materials; etc.) Andrew and Kat will look into the actual costs to develop a budget.

Next, the aforementioned Transition Forum was discussed. 1.) It was agreed that we plan on late-Sept for the forum; 2.) Possible locations were discussed: Arlington HS; Maple Street School; Manchester Library; BBA; 3.) We hope to meet with Gloria Palmer (Green Mtn Academy) who offered her help re questions we might have re running the panel discussion (e.g. getting a moderator like Joe Donahue; Chris Morrow, Laura Walker; etc.); 4.) A panel of 4 people was decided on. Possible panelists were discussed: Neale Lunderville, CEO, VT Gas; Curt Saeger, Professor at Paul Smith College; Matt Cota (VT Fuel Dealers....Distribution Association); Becca White (State Legislator); etc. More discussion to follow at all meetings.

Update: Town Hall and Town Garage energy efficiency. This is on hold for now pending possible application (when available late this year) for the MERP Implementation Grants (\$500k max.). Jeff will check with Callie if, since we have the Town Garage Energy Audit (from April 26, 2022 by Weatherization Works (Heat Squad), we would still need to apply for another audit. The Committee would also like to discuss this with Road Foreman, Marc Johnstone for his thoughts and suggestions. Jeff noted a Capstone Project by Vermont State University at Vermont Technical College where students are researching how to make a local municipal maintenance facility in Johnson, VT much more energy efficient. We may be able to learn a great deal from this re how feasible it is to make Town Garages more energy efficient (e.g. noting their constantly being in use...with the large overhead doors opening and closing hourly). Jeff will get info re this Project to the committee.

Since MERP grantee's buildings need to be ADA compliant, we need to see if our Garage is ADA compliant (bathrooms; doors; etc.). If not, could MERP \$ be used to bring it into compliance. Jeff noted he asked Town Clerk, Susan Whitney, and she wasn't sure if it was. We need to figure out how to find this out.

An EV Charger at Town Hall was discussed. Since there is no EV charger anywhere in our town, the Committee will

discuss the feasibility, need, cost, possible funding, etc. for an EV charger (Level 2 or faster).

The Manchester Energy Fair (Earth Day, 4/22/23, 11am til 3pm) was discussed. Dixie, Kat and Jeff are volunteering to help out at the Fair at Manchester Town Hall. At the Fair, EV, PHEV and Hybrid vehicles will be on display; presentations will be made; LED bulbs available; a Window Dressers table will be there; GMP table; agricultural info available; etc.

Window Dressers 2023 was discussed. The Northshire Build already has 142 insert orders (the Southshire Build has 188 orders already but are looking for a build facility...Dixie may check on the old Stanley Works building in North Bennington for them). We will probably have ours in Oct or Nov...possibly again at the Arlington American Legion.

Committee members have volunteered to be a big part of the planning and the build itself.

Our next meeting is set for Weds., April 26th, 6pm at Town Hall.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.