

MINUTES

SUNDERLAND ENERGY COMMITTEE (SEC) MEETING

Tuesday, March 26th, 2024 - 7pm ZOOM*

The Meeting was called to Order at 7:03PM

In attendance on the Zoom Meeting were: Jeff Dexter, Dan Levering, Kate Clemow, Andrew McKeever, and Dixie Zens

Dixie Zens was appointed Meeting Secretary to take Minutes.

Accepting the Last Meeting's Minutes was deferred to the next meeting as not all the committee members had been able to review them.

Some of the Remaining MERP Mini Grant will be used to mail out postcards with the link to the online Energy Committee Survey to request preferences and ideas from our town's folks on energy savings, improving weatherization and saving money & our planet. The Survey is available online at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1m6GAiBOAT6CDLCiFsbROWjv8kyiE38x2lqzSLOIC4Sc/edit?usp=sharing_eil_m&ts=6602c734

On April 2nd, 7PM at Town Hall, the Energy Committee will meet to label and stamp the postcards to be mailed to each residential home. Access to the survey is also available on the Town's website <https://sunderlandvt.org/>.

Arlington's Energy and Resilience Fair will be on Sat. June 1st, Arlington Commons from 10AM to 2PM and our participation (i.e. with a landscape e-machinery demonstration) Jeff will investigate the possibility of having an electric rider mower for demonstration. Jeff said that homeowner versions of Battery Powered Riding Mowers range from \$4,500 to \$6000. Dan said that a commercial electric Zero-Turn mower (Mean Green Machine), which Williams College has acquired, cost about \$50,000 (the on-line price), with others ranging from \$16,000 to \$40,000.

Dixie will get a list of Sunderland's powered equipment, allowing Sunderland to consider energy efficient replacements as equipment nears its "End of Useful Life", following up on our Green Procurement Memo of Understanding.

Dan has offered our committee a Tour of Williams College to view their energy-efficiency projects & buildings. Dan said Williams is installing a geo-thermal heating system, has many battery powered tools as well as the Mean Green Machine. Dan will be requesting a suitable date & time for our committee to visit.

Jeff suggested that we invite Mike Cole, from Winhall, to a future meeting to review his town's efforts to create an Energy Dashboard, which is quite comprehensive and informative. It can be seen:

<https://app.energycap.com/app/embedded?key=ZW5jLXB1YmxpYy1kYXNoYm9hcmR8UHJvZH VjdGlvbg%3D%3D.c2Fhc19wcm9kXzAwMnwxMTk4.N2MxMWI1MjAtYzA1Zi00NmFmLWJkYWQ tZjkxMzYyNzJmMmUw&showGlobalFilter=1&dashboardId=15292&dashboardType=USER>

The State of Vermont also has an energy website: <https://eanvt.org/vermont-energy-dashboard/>, that has accumulated data from each town in Vermont, showing each town's progress on energy conservation and savings.

Green Up Day is Saturday, May 4th 8am – 12pm. Jeff will be contacting former volunteers to assemble another great team to help Green Up our wonderful Town, as he has done for the past several years.

It was suggested that we invite our Representatives, Seth Bongratz and Kathleen James, to a future Energy Committee Meeting. Andrew suggested we wait until this session ends in May so summer may be a better time for them.

The Renewable Energy Bill passed in the VT House, but still needs to be approved in the Senate. The Governor may veto this bill, if it gets to his desk.

Andrew suggested we discuss organizing another Forum on Energy Issues at our next meeting.

Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 23rd 7PM on ZOOM. An agenda with the Zoom Link will be posted.

The was adjourned at 7:58PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dixie Zens