

MINUTES

SUNDERLAND ENERGY COMMITTEE (SEC) MEETING

Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024 - 7pm ZOOM*

- **Call to Order** - 7:15pm
- **Appoint Meeting Sec'y to take Minutes** - Dan Levering
- **Accept Last Meeting's Minutes:** Kat made motion, Andrew second.

Mike Cole: Winhall energy committee spoke. He's one of five members of their committee. He discussed their town's Energy Dashboard. Every building will have 2 meters (electrical, propane or oil), get metered data and enter into the system, to see consumption rates. Data can be shared with building owners for analysis. Andrew: How receptive were town staff to having energy monitored? The town's facilities manager is amazingly accepting of having his buildings on display as has been the same message with the highway manager. Reporting will help inform building managers to get recognized for how this will help them get support in the future rather than point blame. To gather data: invoices needed from building managers and energy committee will input data into the software. Kat: Has the software been up long enough to see patterns and affect change? Software up since January and has shared data with facilities managers. Facilities manager has highlighted some deferred maintenance to help correct issues and show cost avoidance. The bottomline: it monitors energy usage in all town buildings (and vehicles?) showing progress in saving taxpayer \$\$ and reducing dependence on fossil fuels and/or areas that need improvement (e.g. through energy efficiency projects). The Winhall Energy Committee chose how the dashboard would look and what would be displayed. Energy Cap is the name of software. Jeff: What is the cost of the software? \$3,000/year cost. Addison county regional planning commission, looking at purchasing a license to manage data entry for multiple towns in the county. We should check on that AND see if our Bennington County Regional Commission might do the same. Jeff to contact Callie Fishburn re this.

A VCRD Energy Innovation Grant of \$4K paid for Windham's first year using the software.

Jeff: How does your town's data differ from the states? Winhall is hoping this will stimulate conversations about energy consumption and how they can reduce their use.

Andrew: We should all watch his GNAT NewsProject episode on their Energy Dashboard for more info.

Jeff: We'll have Mike back to a meeting to discuss his plan on municipal use of alt fuels. Discussion could open a door for surrounding towns to reduce greenhouse gas from diesel municipal vehicles to compressed natural gas.

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Discuss Survey results: 41 replies (6% of Sunderland households). 27% said they're interested in participating in the Energy Committee. Our Committee will contact those folks and other residents who wanted more info about energy efficiency (though many didn't leave their contact info). Other survey findings: 20% of respondents have E-vehicles; 34% have heat pumps; 5% have solar panels; 75% wanted info re a home energy audit; 70% have drafty windows and want more info on WindowDressers; and 85% wanted more info regarding cutting their home heating bills.

Discuss Arlington's Energy and Resilience Fair: (Sat. June 1st, Arlington Commons) and our participation (i.e. with a landscape e-machinery demonstration): Meeting with them next week. John's Building Supply (Pittsfield, MA) is bringing e-equipment, including a state-of-the-art, residential-use e-riding mower. Kat and Jeff to attend.

Williams College Tour of all their energy-efficiency projects/buildings – Set for Friday, May 10. Time and carpooling TBD. Dan to make a list of ideas that are relevant to towns.

Discuss topics for a possible Forum in late October: Next meeting

Discuss Committee member work expectations and communications: Next meeting

- **New/other business (e.g. Green Up Day – Saturday, May 4 th 8am – 12pm)**
- **Set next month's meeting date/time: 5/29/24 7pm**
- **Adjourn Meeting: 8:24pm**