

MINUTES

SUNDERLAND ENERGY COMMITTEE (SEC) MEETING

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024 - 7pm ZOOM

The ZOOM meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM on November 13, 2024

In attendance were: Jeff Dexter (Chair), Andrew McKeever and Dixie Zens

- 1) Dixie Zens was appointed the Meeting's Sec'ry to take Minutes
- 2) Jeff made a motion to accept October's Meeting's Minutes, Andrew Seconded the motion and the minutes were accepted unanimously.
- 3) Jeff discussed the awarding of the MERP Grant application for energy efficiency measures @ Town Hall and Town Garage. The full amount requested was approved! The request was as follows:

Town Hall:

Heat pump in meeting room (for heating and A/C)
Insulation of the foundation
Air sealing of the doors
Solar panels on the roof (4.5KW)
Level One EV charger
LED lighting outside

Garage:

Heat pump for heating and A/C
Insulate & air seal the foundation
Insulate & air seal the roof
Insulate & air seal the walls
Air seal all doors (incl the two overhead doors)
Solar panels on the roof (4KW)

Total award: **\$206,632.**

The next steps are to meet with town officials and the road foreman to setup the implementation plan, send RFP's (Requests For Proposals) to local contractors and solar companies, have the selectboard approve the the best proposals, and award the contracts to complete the project.

- 4) Three new members have volunteered to join the Energy Committee. THANK YOU!! Scott and Coleen York and Liz Miller ... Welcome!
- 5) The Window Dressers 2024-Northshire Build was held at the First Congregational Church in Manchester (Thank you very much) from October 17th to Oct 23rd. Final numbers of completed inserts was 303, the most in the four years of this Northshire Project. About 40% of the inserts were built at no cost to the owners, paid for by generous donations from the Communities, local businesses and individuals. The Church has offered their facility for the 2025 build.
- 6) Jeff proposed that some of the remaining funds (\$3,100) from the MERP Mini Grant \$\$ - could be used for Website improvement. The funds need to be expended by Dec 31 2026. Andria Bacchi or 4SQ could be used to improve the EC Website.

- 7) The committee discussed what Vermont & National outlook for climate change work might look like in the next few years (post-election). The uncertainty looms over all of us. Jeff and Andrew suggested that our local state reps should be invited to a joint Selectboard / Energy Committee meeting in Late January or February to discuss the State's positions on fossil fuel reduction and other climate change initiatives. Andrew will be interviewing Jerod Duval Dec 17, 2024 for a recorded interview on climate issues. Check that out after Dec 17th on GNET TV
- 8) New/other business:
 - a) Ralph Meina has made gestures to facilitate the BRSU going net net-metering for the entire BRSU, possibly at no cost to BRSU.
 - b) Jeff has found and is using The Fuel Club to purchase his home heating propane, which give him a 25% to 30% discount on his heating bills. Irvine and Suburban are two of the participating suppliers that work with the Fule Club.
- 9) Next month's meeting will be December 18th at 7PM via ZOOM
- 10) The Meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM

Respectively Submitted.

Dixie Zens