

## **Sunderland Energy Committee: 3/20/25 by Zoom 7:02 PM**

Present : Jeff Dexter, Colleen York, Andrew McKeever, Scott York, Liz Miller, Lisa Maggio,

- Colleen York designated to take minutes
- Jeff Dexter motions to accept 2/20/25 minutes, Colleen York seconds. Minutes accepted.
- MERP UPDATE : Jeff reported that on 2/24/25 Select Board unanimously voted to accept Centerline as project manager for the MERP grant but agreement was not signed and mailed to Centerline. There may be some miscommunication regarding the Select Board's 2/24/25 approval of Centerline as project manager and the next steps. This should be cleared up at the 3/24/25 SB meeting. Jeff indicated the goal at the 3/24/25 Select Board meeting is to get the agreement with Centerline signed. Jeff, Andrew and Colleen will attend Select Board meeting on 3/24/25. Discussion ensued regarding the hardship clause and whether we need it. The Select Board would have to document why we needed hardship, energy committee members could assist in writing it up if Select Board requests this. Jeff noted that BGS suggested funds for MERP be held in separate account.
- Discussion on EV chargers, cost, who pays for charging. Jeff noted he discussed at Town Meeting and who pays came up. Jeff noted that VCLT gave him a list of VT towns that have EV chargers on their premises. There are about 40 such towns and most have more than one charger on their property. Cost of chargers vary, Sunderland would be looking at EV charger level 2. Also who pays for maintenance as Andrew noted it cannot be an ongoing cost for town once grant is used up. Liz questioned if the town really needs it, Colleen noted it's #5 on the priority scale. It was decided more research on this is needed
- MERP MINI GRANT - Liz reported that town has new webmaster, Laura Hammler. Liz spoke briefly with her regarding energy committee page on town website and how to improve it. Liz is waiting to hear back from her. Jeff also noted he sent Laura a wish list and he is waiting to hear back from her. Lisa brought up contacting real estate agencies and sharing information on energy resources for new residences. This may be something we can add to website page.

- Scott questioned whether the grant is secure with all the changes occurring at federal level with grants. Jeff noted both BGS and Callie from BCRC said nothing is 100% but they feel it's 95% secure.
- WINDOW DRESSERS: Jeff reported the \$500 was approved at Town Meeting and several people spoke enthusiastically about how it has helped. Jeff reports that the American Legion will be the setting for putting together, probably last weekend in September or early October. Jeff reported outreach should focus on Sunderland residents. Goal is 250, and Jeff reported already have 190 requests. All of these still have to be confirmed. Andrew suggested using Front Porch Forum to reach families. All agreed.
- GREEN UP DAY: Scheduled for May 3, 8 to 12 or so. Jeff will get information to Caroline for website and also will get on Front Porch Forum. Jeff will also be in touch with Orvis and GMP to coordinate better. Jeff noted there are about 45 volunteers. Jeff would like to see committee members participate and he will contact school to share information.
- NEW AND OTHER BUSINESS: Andrew reported he did discuss with Callie about doing some joint meetings with other Energy Committees from other towns. Callie said she will work on that. Jeff brought up the Municipal Plan and that our committee should be involved with that when it comes up. Jeff said about 30 to 35 % of the plan is about energy.
- NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 23, 7 PM ZOOM
- Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM