

Sunderland Energy Committee

Meeting Minutes Oct. 27, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Dexter at 7 p.m.

Attending via Zoom: Jeff Dexter, Andrew McKeever, Liz Miller, Scott York, Colleen York

Absent: Dixie Zens

Andrew McKeever was appointed to take minutes.

Motion was made by Jeff, seconded by Andrew, to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Minutes accepted unanimously.

The update on the MERP grant for the town garage and town hall was discussed. Rooftop solar for the town hall (the agreed to solar installation) was discussed. Jeff said he had let the select board know rooftop was the best way to go. We're not sure if the SB has voted on this yet. And solar power is lower on the MERP Priority List, so higher items on the Priority List will come first. Further discussions with the state's Buildings and Grounds Dept. may be necessary to allow for spending part of the \$206,000 MERP grant on that.

The invoice for an assessment by the project manager was \$4000, \$500 more than what was quoted. Jeff will check on that.

The land survey of the town hall is now complete, showing the wetlands portion of the property. It was emailed to Todd. (There may be interest in building a pavilion there outside the wetland area, and also a walking trail but that is non-MERP related.)

The issue of rooftop solar hampering firefighting efforts by fire departments on the town hall and town garage was discussed. It's still a concern for fire departments. But there's ways of getting around it, both communication wise and technically. Info about the issue was sent to Todd. Brian Hawley is the new road foreman and the fire chief in Arlington. He could be asked about this.

Re the seal-up of the town garage, Centerline's Kelly Harrington recommends Jon Haehnel (who did an energy assessment on the garage and is familiar with it) as someone who might be able to check if an air barrier is in place within the walls of the garage. The cost would be \$940 for him to do this remotely (watching as someone opened a section of the wall) or \$2,360 in-person. We should see what options we have about this.

One of the support columns on the town garage will need some work, but overall, the support columns of the building are in reasonable shape.

Energy Committee (EC) suggestions to the Planning Commission (PC), which is working on the new town plan which will include an energy update, was discussed. Jeff has sent a list of ideas to the Planning Commission to consider. The EC will be helping both the PC and BCRC with the Energy section update.

A brief discussion followed on how to spend the remainder of the previous mini-MERP grant. Creating an energy website or working with Laura Hammler, the town's webmaster on this was discussed. Liz said she would check with Laura and/or Todd to update us on any changes to the Town's Website regs.

The WindowDressers project was assessed. Jeff noted Sunderland volunteers were very active throughout the build, as always. The build event occurred Oct 2nd – 8th. 250 inserts were built for Sunderland and Northshire residents. Over the years, 7 Sunderland families have obtained inserts. Even more outreach to our fellow residents will occur before the 2026 build in the Fall.

Sunderland Shines was discussed - the two groups are currently stalled for lack of a chairperson for each.

Button Up Vermont was discussed briefly. We can post their valuable resource-info on our Facebook page and request it to go on our EC town-site page. Jeff noted all of their info would be very beneficial to town residents.

The next meeting was set for Thursday, Nov. 20, at 7 pm via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.