

Starksboro Energy Committee
Special Meeting to Review Energy Plan

6/11/18

1. Attendees
 - a. Pete Antos-Kecham
 - b. Jeff Dunham
 - c. Richard Faesy
 - d. Megan Nedzinski
 - e. Denny Casey
2. Process
 - a. Planning Commission (PC) wanted our input earlier in the process, and felt like some members of the Starksboro Energy Committee (SEC) did not come through to support Jeff Keeney's energy plan efforts
 - b. Jeff K. had met with a subcommittee a few times to discuss town energy planning and had expected more support from those members, but there had never been a follow through with any materials to review or specific requests for input
 - c. The SEC is late to the game in providing input into the town energy planning process and there is some frustration by PC members as a result
 - d. However, with all of this behind us, the PC appreciates the energy expertise from the SEC members and welcomes our help with the Energy Plan
 - e. The SEC agreed to provide a timely review in a helpful Word document format to the PC to help clean up and clarify the Energy Plan, without any significant re-writing or re-organization.
3. Overview
 - a. Denny Casey asked whether we could really meet the 90% x 50 goal
 - i. The Committee confirmed that the technical potential is in place to reach this goal, but that it will take a significant concerted effort to reach it;
 1. The technology is in place and is rapidly developing with prices for renewables dropping
 - ii. At least, we need to try to get there; even if we don't fully achieve it, we need to try and many benefits will accrue
4. Mobile Homes
 - a. Denny feels we need to include some focus on mobile home parks
 - b. There is concern with density and lot size issues
 - c. Our three parks were designed with smaller homes in place originally, many larger homes now covering septic dry-wells
 - d. State has preemption over towns, so we aren't able to do much
 - e. The SEC should consider opportunities for helping mobile home residents
 - f. Consider VERMOD as an option when replacing older home
 - i. But there are issues with in-ground infrastructure and needing to install frost walls
 - g. There are septic and water issues; we need to develop community systems
 - h. Addison County Community Trust owns 9 parks in the county, 3 in Starksboro

- i. How do we work with the Trust to support residents and help them out?
- j. It would be a great opportunity for the SEC to work with the PC and the Conservation Commission to make some progress with these mobile home parks
- k. Park management could represent the residents

5. Starksboro Energy Plan Review

4.7 Energy Section

- a. Reference directly the Town's commitment to the 90% renewables by 2050 goals.
- b. 4.7.03 Policies
 - i. Include the SEC's mission in the Plan
 - ii. P67 - Support the Energy Committee in its efforts to work with residents, businesses and the Town to ensure our community's long-term energy future and energy independence by changing the way we use, produce and relate to energy. (This is the SEC's mission statement).

Enhanced Energy Plan "Addendum"

1. Clarify whether or not Starksboro is aiming to achieve the standards for "substantial deference" or not. While this seems to be the case, it is not clearly stated one way or the other. Be clear of our intent.
2. Reference the SEC's mission statement in the section on the Starksboro Energy Committee on page 2. Change "profit" to "benefit".
3. How do the Goals, Objectives and Policies in the main body of the Town Plan relate to the Goals, Policies and Recommended Actions in the "Enhanced Energy Plan"? Shouldn't they align?
 - a. Change "Policies" to "Objectives" in the addendum
 - b. Change "Recommended Actions" to "Policies" in the addendum
4. Delete references to Lake Dunmore and an industrial zone (two references), which we don't have.
5. Thermal Section
 - a. Sugaring in Starksboro
 - i. The Plan does not mention the energy use of sugaring, which uses a significant amount of non-renewable oil and electricity.
 - ii. Approximately 4 Billion Btus for oil evaporation (which could be part of the 15 listed)
 - iii. Plus electricity
 - b. There is no mention of water heating, which is a significant part of the thermal load, second only to space heating.
 - i. Do the numbers include water heating or not? Clarify in the text.
 - c. Table 3A
 - i. Can't we do better than 2% (13) weatherization jobs by 2025?
 - d. Address manufactured/mobile homes as a specific sector deserving of focused attention.
 - e. Delete reference to compact fluorescent bulbs since LEDs have superseded them.
6. Electrical Use Section
 - a. Include Vermont Electric Coop throughout this section and in the maps since they serve the northern portion of town.

- b. Again, mention sugarmakers as an electrical target
 - c. How is it possible to increase efficiency and conservation by 60% by 2050; how is that achieved? Does this include the contribution of renewables to offset electricity or is just efficiency? Please clarify.
 - d. Goals need more focus specifically on electricity, rather than energy in general.
 - e. Policies
 - i. #3 - How to promote energy efficiency in all buildings? This needs more specificity. How about benchmarking all municipal buildings (kBtu/sq. ft.) to compare performance to other buildings? How about building energy labeling for all residential buildings at time of sale to provide energy information to buyers and to encourage upgrades of efficiency?
 - ii. #4 – Commit to converting all streetlights to LEDs.
 - f. Recommended Actions
 - i. #4 - ...and convert to renewable fuels and electric heat pumps.
 - ii. Consider adopting the stretch energy code to ensure that all new construction is as efficient as possible.
7. Transportation
- a. Is bio-diesel really a net-positive carbon approach? This needs more research to determine.
 - b. Policies – Add “support use of electric vehicles”.
8. Land Use and Generation
- a. Change the title to this section to “Land Use and Generation” and strike “and transmission analysis” since it’s not relevant to Starksboro
 - b. Reformat the heading levels throughout this section so make is clear which of the four levels each heading falls under.
 - c. Update Table 8 with VEC data in addition to GMP
 - d. Page 11 – What is the “3,500 kW” referring to? Where is that from?
 - e. Where is the town’s “industrial use” zone referenced on page 11?
 - f. Add a section on “Biogas” to capture potential bio digesters to burn methane at farms or through future other sources like the landfill.
 - g. Hydropower
 - i. Strike current language and change to read “Starksboro has historically used hydropower as a viable power source in multiple locations. Hydropower may one day become a local energy source again given the town’s water resources as technology changes and the economics become more viable”.
 - h. Energy Storage
 - i. Broaden to include agriculture, commercial and municipal buildings in addition to just homeowners.
 - i. Generation – Potential and Targets
 - i. Change title to “Generation Constraints” and demote to level 3 heading.
 - ii. Strike mention of Lake Dunmore and clarify which ridge in town should be mentioned; along Big Hollow Road?
9. Table Renumbering
- a. There are two “Table 10”
 - b. Renumber and update text references
 - i. Page 14 change Table 10 to 9
 - ii. Page 22 change Table 9 to 10

- iii. Page 22 change Table 10 to 11
 - iv. Update all text references accordingly
 - c. Maps
 - i. Add page numbers and map numbers to help navigate the map pages.
 - ii. Add Vermont Electric Coop data to the “Renewable Energy Potential: Transmission and Distribution and Constraints – Starksboro” map
 - iii. Why is so much of the town “secondary” and not “primary” biomass?
 - d. Table 10 (labeled in the Plan as Table 9), p. 22 Renewable Generation Potential
 - i. There should be some MW value for Hydro and Biomass and Methane
10. Community Standards for Siting and Decommissioning Energy Projects
- a. Bottom of p. 22: strike “aesthetic”
 - b. Top of p. 23: Add after “aesthetic” ...”, environmental and cultural...”
 - c. Page 23: Strike mention of Lake Dunmore

6. Next Steps

- a. SEC needs to provide a marked up combined Word doc back to PC and Rebecca Elder by June 18