

Starksboro Energy Committee
5:30 p.m. Monday July 9, 2018
Starksboro Town Clerk's Office

1. Attendees
 - a. Committee Members
 - i. Richard Faesy
 - ii. Jeff Dunham
 - iii. Phil Mosenthal
 - b. Guests
 - i. Rebecca Elder
 - ii. Robert Turner
2. Approve June minutes
 - a. Minutes from past two meetings (June 4 and June 11)
 - b. Jeff moved to approve both sets of minutes, Phil seconded
 - c. Unanimously approved
3. Public Comments
 - a. None
4. Open Meeting Laws
 - a. Rebecca presented based on her experience from two workshops and from working with other town boards
 - b. Everyone is frustrated that the rules feel like they restrict discussion and democracy, but are intended to provide for open discussions and decisions
 - c. The Vermont laws lag behind technology and are outdated, but the Legislature is trying to work to modernize them
 - d. These are also called "sunshine laws" to allow for open information and discussion
 - e. If it's electronic but not open to everyone, then it violates the law
 - f. All discussions and decisions need to be open
 - g. Issues likely to come up that are most impacted involve money and people
 - h. The one exception: agenda planning is ok to have discussions behind the scenes via email
 - i. However, we need to bring individual comments to next meeting
 - j. Meeting minutes
 - i. Drafting minutes cannot be shared outside of the official committee members
 - ii. Legally only required to include discussion and decisions
 - k. Make sure meetings are warned
 - l. Make sure agendas are posted in a timely way
 - m. Serial issues strung between people are also prohibited
 - n. Information can be sent out but make sure not to "reply to all"
 - o. Emails we all send around are all public record
 - p. We should advocate to update these via our legislators
 - q. Look into an electronic discussion platform that is open to all and may provide transparency for future discussions (blog)
 - r. As long as no decisions are not made, that is the key

- s. Be careful of anything that involves school district or which may lead to a grant funds
 - t. Make the effort to abide by the law
 - u. As long as we are working in the spirit of the law, that is what counts
5. Town Energy Plan updates and next steps
- a. No one has heard from Planning Commission members following up after the public forum last month
 - b. The Addison Regional Planning Commission (Kevin Behm) will be calling Jeff Dunham to resolve the issue that VT Electric Coop data was missing from the Town Plan
 - c. Next steps are for the revised Town Plan to go in front of the select board, hopefully in August
6. Robinson School
- a. Addison NE Supervisory Union School District Meeting Follow Up
 - i. Richard has volunteered to draft the scope of work of the RFP for the district and needs some assistance
 - ii. Envelope and mechanical equipment
 - iii. Encourage people to team as they respond in order to cover both the envelope and mechanical systems in the schools
 - iv. Draft just the scope of work for Robinson that could then be applicable for other schools
 - v. Let the District apply their boilerplate language to add to the scope of work
 - vi. Focus on qualifications, with lesser emphasis on price
 - vii. Allow contractors to bid for individual schools
 - viii. Incorporate student learning opportunity into RFP as part of proposals
 - ix. Energy Committee and School Board member and Alden should be selection committee
 - b. Engagement with Robinson School staff for next school year
 - i. Jeff will talk with Ruth Beecher about incorporating the audit efforts into her curriculum for an energy unit
 - c. Vermont Energy Education Program
 - i. Veep.org
 - ii. Jeff will connect with Ruth Beecher to discuss an energy curriculum and try to incorporate the Robinson audit and suggest VEEP as a resource
7. September 14 Public Forum Plans
- a. Robert Turner attended to discuss his role at the forum
 - b. Content and format
 - i. Present each of the levels
 - 1. Statewide
 - a. Climate Action Committee
 - 2. Town
 - a. Town Energy Plan
 - b. Energy Committee
 - 3. Individuals
 - a. What individuals can do and take away
 - c. Speakers:

- i. Robert could start by talking about what's in the statewide Climate Action Plan (15 minutes)
 - 1. He will bring highlights of plan
 - ii. Present what is in the Town Plan re. Energy
 - 1. Megan could present what's in the Energy Sections of the Town Plan
 - 2. Need larger maps
 - a. Jeff will ask Kevin at ACWD for maps and to invite him to attend
 - iii. What the Energy Committee is thinking of doing and planning
 - 1. Richard could present on the plans for the Energy Committee
 - 2. Cover any Efficiency Vermont sponsored activities
 - a. Button Up Event
 - b. Mobile Home initiative
 - d. Promotion plans
 - i. Library venue
 - 1. Robert will approach Katherine for Sept 14
 - 2. Ask to put out placard/sandwich board in front of the Library a week ahead of time
 - ii. Pitch: Starksboro's Energy Future
 - 1. State and local perspectives
 - 2. What's happening with energy and climate
 - iii. Richard draft up Gazette pitch
 - 1. Invitation draft for July
 - a. Have Robert provide a little description
 - 2. Share with Robert for Gazette to review draft
 - 3. 7:00 Friday 9/14
 - 4. Offer email for soliciting input from people to Richard
 - 5. Provide enough info to describe event
 - iv. Front Porch Forum
 - 1. Edited down event posted twice
 - 2. A week ahead and 3 days ahead of the event
- 8. Update on discussions with GMP
 - a. Battery backup for Town Buildings instead of generator
 - i. Jeff has been talking with Peter Marsh and GMP about changing Rate 6 to be eligible for battery backup
 - ii. GMP may have a group pole-mounted battery that could be used
 - iii. The Town Garage has a generator so they are all set at this point
 - iv. Group of town buildings to benefit:
 - 1. First Response, PO, Food Shelf and Town Clerk's office as a group to pilot to support community/town buildings
 - v. Jeff may come to select board meeting to discuss
 - vi. Options to consider:
 - 1. Just single Tesla battery per building
 - 2. Tie in community buildings as a group served by a group of batteries
 - 3. Islanding the community that ties in solar

- a. If we could tie in the 6 solar panels the town owns into a backup “island” option
- 9. Review next Gazette Energy Corner potential articles
 - a. August issue (due July 20):
 - i. Starksboro Energy Forum
 - b. September (due August 20):
 - i. Button up article (if we decide to proceed)
 - ii. Reminder of the Energy Forum
- 10. Exploring alternative options
 - a. More Town Solar PV
 - i. We should consider purchasing the 19 school owned PV trackers as a town and sell the electricity back to Robinson
 - b. Mobile Home Park Project – EVT’s offer to assist (Paul Markowitz)
 - i. Invite August 6 to discuss:
 - 1. Button Up
 - 2. Mobile home program
 - c. Solar development project with Green Lantern:
 - i. Rebecca reported that Jim Carol is reviewing a land lease for the town. On 7/24, the Select Board will be reviewing the lease with Green Lantern.
 - d. Topics for future discussion:
 - i. EV Charging Stations
 - ii. Robinson School roof leasing for solar
 - iii. GMP three phase power line upgrades
 - iv. Micro grid projects
 - v. All Power Labs wood chip generator
 - vi. Dump methane opportunities
 - vii. Pump storage
 - viii. Micro hydro
- 11. Other business
 - a. None
- 12. Next meeting agenda items
 - a. August 6
 - b. Agenda
 - i. Sept Forum
 - ii. Updates on items above
 - 1. Energy Plan
 - 2. Robinson School
 - 3. GMP updates
 - 4. Energy Forum
 - 5. Alternative option if time allows
- 13. Adjourned at 7:55
 - a. Phil moved, Jeff seconded
 - b. Unanimously approved