

Starksboro Energy Committee

5:30 p.m. Monday November 1, 2021

Virtual Teams Meeting

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Conference ID: 222 356 293#

1. Attendees
 - a. Richard
 - b. Megan
 - c. Jeff
 - d. Pete
2. Approve Minutes from October 4, 2021
 - a. Moved by Jeff, seconded by Pete
 - b. Approved
3. Public Comments
 - a. No other attendees
4. Planning Commission and “Substantial Deference”
 - a. Pete talked to Denny Casey
 - b. Issues from PC:
 - i. Map created by the RPC process should be updated since they feel it’s dated
 1. Would like to see a layer of existing infrastructure relative to projects that could be developed
 2. Include three-phase electric grid capacity
 - ii. Substantial deference
 1. What rights are included in substantial deference?
 - a. Are there really rights in name only?
 - b. Can the PUC overrule local control?
 - c. What role would eminent domain play?
 2. There is some skepticism whether “substantial deference” is really meaningful
 3. Developers would likely pursue cheapest location, so we would lose local control
 4. It hasn’t been around long enough to really have some precedent
 5. Current Robinson School closing issue has been taking up most of PC’s focus and time so we need to be sensitive to the timing
 6. Ask ACRPC what the timing is on needing to make a decision before changes occur

- a. The PC was feeling pressured to make a decision by ACRPC at our joint meeting
 - c. We need to work together (SEC and PC) to figure out how we can work collaboratively
 - i. Less formal letters and more in-person discussions would be helpful to move the conversation forward
 - ii. Find out how real the deadline is for updated standards for making a decision
 - 1. Timeline and examples of what other towns' experience has been with substantial deference
 - iii. Mapping exercise would help us better understand the site potential for renewable projects
 - 1. Extending the lines for likely projects might help show that there are more potential projects in town than people think
 - iv. There may be some considerations we can build into our Town Plan to address adequate transmission capacity as part of a proposed development process
 - 1. This would be similar to submitting a building design in front of the DRB committee in town
 - 2. Substantial deference would provide the opportunity to have a seat at the table when the state reviews the project
 - v. Green Lantern on the town landfill site
 - 1. None of the power came to Starksboro
 - vi. Would we want to ensure that some of the power comes to the Town?
 - d. Next steps
 - i. We should work with RPC and the PC to update the maps
 - 1. Include a layer that considers "reasonable cost extensions" if a larger developer might develop
 - ii. Conversation with the PC after we update the map
 - 1. Pete will continue the conversation with Denny to follow up and let them know we are working on updating the map
 - iii. Richard to ask Katie R-Meyer if they can update our map
 - 1. Three phase power updates needed to the map
 - 2. Any other town experience we can share with the PC?
 - 3. What is our deadline for pursuing?
5. Starksboro Public Library Energy and Ventilation Project
- a. From the VLCT website:
 - i. Ventilation improvements in congregate settings is an eligible use under Section A. (Treasury FAQ, 2.1)
 - b. Vermont Energy Contracting and Supply will be providing an estimate
 - i. Energy recovery ventilation system
 - ii. Heat pump
 - iii. Options
 - 1. Central heat pump with ventilation combination
 - 2. Ductless mini splits
 - 3. Keep existing oil system in parallel
 - 4. Treat the second floor as another project for another time

- c. Reach out to Susan Thompson about the project to coordinate
 - i. Richard to discuss ventilation options
 - ii. Consider making the Library an emergency space
 - d. Leave the oil furnace in place for redundancy and possible backup for cold days
 - i. It may never be needed, but best to demonstrate that before removal
 - e. Reach out to Koran to let her know what we're up to
 - i. Just the ventilation is eligible for the ARPA funds
 - ii. Ventilation and heat pump combination
- 6. EV Charging Station Updates
 - a. Jeff provided an email to Eric Cota about what the town is charging for EV charging relative to what the town is paying for power
 - b. Over a 20-year life for the town's solar array, compare the cost and savings
 - i. Approximately \$.10/kWh it costs us
 - ii. We are charging \$.14/kWh, so we are not subsidizing these costs
- 7. Benchmarking Town Buildings Project Update
 - a. Review benchmarking analysis and metrics
 - b. Ask if Robyn is able to compete inputting the data
 - i. If not, then provide a summary of what she's done and what's left
 - c. Goal is to get an EUI for each building and then compare town buildings against others to prioritize projects
 - d. To account for solar, create a dummy building for the solar for allocating solar
 - i. Set up an automated report to look at what each building used
 - e. Tom Perry is interested in working with us to help allocate electric to each building to potentially help with the Library project
 - i. Celine used to manually allocate solar contribution to each project
 - ii. Jeff will give Tom access to the Town's GMP account so he can dig into the energy bills and help with allocating
 - f. Next steps
 - i. Richard ask Robyn for an update and status of completion
 - ii. Jeff share info on accessing GMP accounts with Tom Perry
- 8. Window Dressers
 - a. Pete reached out to Robert Turner
 - b. Catherine from the Library is interested in helping
 - c. There is a low-income provision included for up to 5 windows for those who can't afford them
 - d. Need a 4-hour shift requirement in November 3-8, 2021
 - e. Pete will reach out to Robert for more information to understand process and future opportunities
- 9. Starksboro Residents' House Weatherization Projects
 - a. Pete has handed out applications and promoted the program
 - b. More ARPA funds available
 - c. Richard to bring brochures to the Town Clerk
 - d. We need to be a reminder to let people know through Front Porch Forum
- 10. Mobile Home Parks

- a. VERMod homes are not the lower cost they used to be
 - i. \$200+k each
 - ii. Richard to reach out to Peter Schneider to find out if there are other options that is better than standard practice but not a Cadillac
 - b. VEC serves Lazy Brook and Hillside. GMP serves Brookside
 - i. You can only receive group solar electricity from the same utility service territory
 - c. Megan will reach out to Elise at ACCT to explore some creative ideas for mobile homes and will report back
 - d. We need to explore opportunities for upgrading
11. Future Agenda Items
- a. ARPA and other grants and resources that may be able to help the town
 - b. Food Shelf/New Communities Project outreach and coordination
 - c. Button Up Campaign/Workshop Update and Promotion of Weatherization
 - d. Review the zoning by-law to make sure it's in compliance with the energy section of the Town Plan
 - e. Coordinate with the Climate Economy Action Center (CEAC) of Addison County
 - f. Community Solar
12. Other business
13. Next meeting
- a. 5:30 December 6
14. Adjourned 7:43