

Starksboro Energy Committee

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

Virtual Teams Meeting

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Conference ID: 222 356 293#

1. Attendees
 - a. Richard Faesy
 - b. Jeff Dunham
 - c. Robyn King
2. Approve Minutes from Feb. 1, 2021
 - a. No quorum so no action
3. Public Comments
4. SEC Appointments for Select Board
 - a. Pete and Phil are resigning
 - b. Robyn will send along bio info to Koran Cusino and will note that the Committee will be searching for an additional seat, as well
 - c. Robyn will ask Pete to extend for another year, or if not, then serve as the town ombudsman for Home Performance with ENERGY STAR
 - i. If not, also ask if there is someone else from the community
 - d. Ideas
 - i. Tom Perry
 1. Richard to ask if interested
 - ii. Susan Thompson
 1. Robyn will reach out see if she is interested
 - iii. Robert Turner
 1. Richard to ask if interested
5. Town Meeting Regroup
 - a. Richard provided an overview of the SEC's activities at the virtual town meeting on Saturday
6. Town Plan Energy Meeting with SPC and ACRPC
 - a. Coordination with the Planning Commission
 - b. Response from Planning Commission, Jeff Keney:
 - i. At our meeting on February 4th on our conversation on Substantial Deference the siting argument kept coming up. I reread the Energy Section on Siting and it made reference to the Industrial Area in town which is currently in the Town Gravel Pit. The Select Board sold the primary section for solar development to

the adjoining farm. This pretty much negates the siting for any future renewable projects. Without any viable area designated in the plan this would make getting Substantial Deference a moot point since it does not designate any viable areas only restricts areas.

- ii. We would like to task the Energy Committee with designating areas for future Energy Development and also areas that should not be developed in the future. These areas should be based on the following criteria.
 - 1. Location to viable energy infrastructure.
 - 2. Location to Transportation networks.
 - 3. Approximate capacity and how these are going to get us to our goals.
 - 4. Life expectancy of these projects and how they will remain sustainable and economically viable including decommissioning costs.
 - 5. Location to Primary Solar Resource Siting Areas
 - 6. Location to Energy Constraints
 - iii. Also, the following information would be helpful to see where the Town is in achieving our target goals.
 - 1. The current output of existing solar projects.
 - 2. Life expectancy of existing projects.
 - 3. Projection on future output of solar arrays based on an energy degradation of 0.8% per year
 - iv. When we have this information, you can submit it to the Planning Commission for review and we will schedule a future meeting to consider this. I will be the point person on this so all correspondence should go through me. We would like to Thank you for taking on this task.
 - v. Jeff Keeney, Vice Chair Starksboro Planning Commission
 - c. Richard asked Rebecca Elder for a copy of the Town Plan since it's not available on line until the Town gets a new website
 - d. Richard asked Katie Reycroft-Meyer at ACRPC if they can help address any of the SPC's questions
 - e. Plan for ACRPC Energy Committee meeting
 - i. Not yet until we resolve the need for establishing "substantial deference"
7. Benchmarking Town Buildings Project Update
- a. Training plans with new treasurer and Robert Turner
 - i. Since there is no town treasurer at this point, Robyn will proceed anyhow inputting the data from the Dropbox folder
 - b. Robyn will enter the data after giving Robert a heads up to offer to show him how it goes and see if he wants to join
8. Solar PV
- a. GMP 10 year solar adder term is ending; next steps
 - i. Jeff needs to follow up with GMP
 - b. Determine what to recommend to Select Board
 - i. This won't happen until after we complete benchmarking
9. Update on Paul's Electricity Reporting Tool
- a. Jeff will follow up with GMP

- i. While he's calling, will also ask about when GMP will implement "Green Button" to automate and update benchmarking
- 10. Button Up Campaign/Workshop Update
 - a. Robyn is moving into a new role at Efficiency Vermont (EVT) as the manager of Home Performance with ENERGY STAR
 - b. Virtual home visits will be available statewide in the near future, so towns will be able to access these going forward
 - c. EVT is considering coordinating with a town "ombudsman" as a way to connect to communities
 - i. We think that Pete Antos-Ketcham would play this role
- 11. Food Shelf/New Communities Project outreach and coordination
 - a. Robyn is going to share materials through NCP and new collateral material should be available shortly and ready for launch
 - b. Robyn will connect with Pete to distribute.
- 12. Starksboro Residents' House Weatherization Projects
 - a. Richard will follow up with the last resident to see if they want to move forward
- 13. Future Agenda Items
 - a. Review the zoning by-laws to make sure it's in compliance with the energy section of the Town Plan
 - b. Wait until after we review the Town Plan and work through substantial deference with the ACRPC
- 14. Other business
- 15. Next meeting
 - a. Need to approve February minutes after we have a quorum