

Starksboro Energy Committee
6:00 p.m. Monday September 13, 2021
Virtual Teams Meeting

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Conference ID: 222 356 293#

1. Attendees
 - a. Robert Turner
 - b. Richard Faesy
 - c. Jeff Dunham
 - d. Robyn Reynolds
2. Approve Minutes from June 7, 2021 & June 21, 2021
 - a. Megan suggested striking her name in both versions and saved as v.2
 - b. Megan moved that we approve the 6/7/2021 minutes, Jeff seconded
 - i. Approved
 - c. Megan abstained, so need to wait to approve the 6/21/21 v.2 meetings until Pete attends a meeting
3. Public Comments
 - a. Robert Turner
 - i. Has enjoyed being part of the Bristol Window Dressers
 - ii. 10 people involved
 1. 6 measuring
 2. Coordinators program and build event
 - iii. Homeowners participated
 - iv. Will do about 100 windows, but have capacity to do 150
 - v. Station to build windows is made available on a rotating basis between Charlotte and Burlington
 - vi. Windows are \$40-50/window
 1. Pine, stretch film, weather-stripped
 2. Two layers of film
 3. Snug fit
 4. Most for double-hung windows
 - vii. Build event will be at Hawley Hall in Bristol
 1. Frames and materials show up and there are stations that apply the films and weatherstripping
 - viii. Non-profit makes up to 10 windows available for free
 - ix. \$100 EVT rebate, so if they pay for three windows they get the grant

- x. Bristol will do again next year
 - xi. Community feel to the event
 - xii. Could tie into Button Up and provides an opportunity to begin the EVT discussion
 - xiii. Starksboro could participate
 - 1. Would need 6 volunteers to get trained
 - 2. Pretty simple process
 - xiv. How would we proceed?
 - 1. Need to recruit volunteers
 - 2. Could put out on Front Porch Forum
 - 3. May do a joint project with other Committees in town and the School
 - xv. Robert would be willing to lead a Starksboro effort
 - 1. Would only do 6-10 customers in the first year
 - 2. Build event happens in the fall
 - 3. Could be a good student project and working with a teacher at Robinson
 - 4. Robert will talk to the Library and other folks about moving it forward
4. Planning Commission and "Substantial Deference"
 - a. Richard reminded the Planning Commission that we were still looking for a response
 5. Bus Routes
 - a. The PC had requested bus carbon impacts from the possibility of closing Robinson School and bussing kids to other county schools
 - b. The information we provided to the PC from Superintendent Reen seems to have been helpful, per Jeff Keeney
 - c. Given the time and lack of information and expertise, it felt like we couldn't come up with new bus routes to calculate the carbon impact
 6. Benchmarking Town Buildings Project Update
 - a. Robyn is busy and has not been able to finish this up
 - i. She will work with GMP to get the rest of the data and input it
 - b. It will be done in the near future
 - c. We have fuel releases in the Dropbox folders
 7. Select Board Report Planning
 - a. Wait for the benchmarking completion before reporting to the SB
 - b. Focus on the Library at this time to come up with some recommendations
 8. Library Project
 - i. Robert Turner reported on the Library and possible ARPA funding the Town received
 1. The SEC thanked Robert for bringing this issue to the Committee
 - ii. The Select Board has been discussing spending ARPA funding
 - iii. The town expects to receive \$91,000 and then that much again
 1. Maybe about \$200,000 total
 - iv. One idea Robert suggested was a revolving loan fund for the town to use
 - v. Richard raised the issue of ARPA rules that require the funds be expended by the end of 2026
 - vi. Other idea would be to use part of the infrastructure money on the Jerusalem School House and Fire Station

- vii. Could it be spent on an endowment on town buildings and solar
- viii. Jerusalem Schoolhouse could be a good use of funds
 - 1. Use the immediate dollars for an emergency shelter for heating and cooling when the power goes out
 - 2. Then take the savings from this efficient building and potentially put it in a revolving loan fund
 - 3. The fire station is crumbling currently and could benefit from restoration
- ix. The Select Board is looking at the Town Plan for guidance
 - 1. Energy is a priority in the Town Plan
- x. If a revolving fund can't be used, then it could easily be used for other infrastructure projects
- xi. Other ideas being proposed in town are the water system
 - 1. But that's a private system
- xii. Can we use the ARPA funds as seed funding for a solar system to pay forward our town energy costs?
 - 1. We could use any over-production to create a fund for weatherization
 - 2. There would need to be a revolving loan fund created out of savings
- xiii. There is a lot of money being made available now, so should we devise a solution that creates something now that spins off savings that can be used in a revolving fund down the line
- xiv. Eligibility screening for ARPA is pretty strict, so the funds would need to be managed tightly.
- xv. Solar potential could include S-109 community solar programs that may be offered by the Department of Public Service
 - 1. \$10 million budget and proposed plan is under development by the VT PSD
- xvi. The Select Board will be scheduling a public meeting to discuss this fall
- xvii. The Library currently is heated with oil hot air
 - 1. This could be a great opportunity for a heat pump
 - 2. For heating and cooling potential
 - 3. Plus some solar could offset this electric consumption
- xviii. These funds wouldn't be enough to get the Jerusalem Schoolhouse moving in the short term
- xix. Project Idea
 - 1. Put a central heat pump or ductless heat pumps in the Library
 - 2. Solar PV system
 - a. There may be issues if we add a new building to the solar group
 - 3. Set up savings account for an energy reserve fund from the oil that is saved
 - a. Create a dedicated savings account to fund the Energy Committee future budget
 - b. Any oil savings would be direct savings
 - c. We could establish a grant fund for homeowners to apply for upfront barriers, such as:
 - i. House cleaning out attic/basement to prep for weatherization
 - ii. Mold, mildew and asbestos remediation

4. Heat pump may be \$30,000 (just an estimate)
5. Consider including a mechanical ventilation system with heat recovery since it's a public space
6. Solar re-panel may be \$25,000
- xx. Next steps
 1. Get quotes for heat pump options and duct systems improvements
 - a. VT Energy Contracting and Supply
 - i. Richard reach out (done on 10/1/21)
 - b. Champlain Valley Plumbing and Heating
 - c. Harvestar in Lincoln
 - d. Ryans in Vergennes
 - e. Jackman's in Bristol
 2. Ask Rebecca for Select Board process and interest in this project
 3. Talk to the Library Board
 - a. Robert will approach the Library Board
9. Solar Options
 - a. May need 5-6000 kWh of power
 - b. Options:
 - i. Re-panel the 6 Town Trackers
 1. Ask what it would cost if we kept the panels
 - ii. Add a new tracker?
 - iii. Put on the roof of the Library?
 - iv. Solar car ports in the town parking lot?
 - c. Jeff will request quote from AllEarth and others
10. Mobile Home Parks
 - a. ACCT just got funding for 2 Starksboro parks for sewage systems and flood control
 - b. Lazy Brook – flood funding
 - c. Brookside – water work
11. Car charger rate for EV car charger
 - a. Eric Cota from Select Board approached Jeff to ask what the EV charging station should charge based on GMP's rate increase
 - b. Jeff and Richard will work on setting the rate
 - c. Jeff will ask Rebecca for the EV charging
12. Future Agenda Items
 - a. Button Up Campaign/Workshop Update and Promotion of Weatherization
 - b. Food Shelf/New Communities Project outreach and coordination
 - c. Starksboro Residents' House Weatherization Projects
 - d. EV Charging Station Updates
 - e. Review the zoning by-law to make sure it's in compliance with the energy section of the Town Plan
 - f. Coordinate with the Climate Economy Action Center (CEAC) of Addison County
 - g. Community Solar
 - h. Mobile Home Parks
13. Adjourned 8:15

14. Next meeting

- a. Monday October 4 at 6:00