

Starksboro Energy Committee

5:30 p.m. Monday January 3, 2022

Virtual Teams Meeting

1. Attendees
 - a. Richard Faesy
 - b. Jeff Dunham
 - c. Megan Nedzinski
 - d. Pete Antos-Ketcham
 - e. Guest Tom Perry
2. Approve Minutes from December 6, 2021
 - a. Megan moved
 - b. Pete seconded
 - c. Folks liked the addition of the mobile home park photos from EVT in case anyone else looks at the minutes in the future
 - d. Unanimously approved
3. Public Comments
 - a. None
4. Benchmarking Town Buildings Project Update
 - a. Megan will pick up and try to complete in January
 - b. GMP has updated their account format recently
 - i. Process has been challenging at times and could be improved
 - c. Solar Allocation
 - i. Tom has been putting the data into Excel spreadsheets to review
 - ii. We have not added the electric data into ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (ESPM) yet since it's somewhat confusing with the multiple buildings and solar account that gets allocated to each building
 1. Will set up the solar array as a single "building" to have one dashboard to then allocate
 - iii. Tom can get the data easily into an Excel spreadsheet, that can then be inputted
 - iv. Tom could help Megan with benchmarking updates if necessary
 - v. Green Button capability would allow automatic updates to bring in the electric bills into ESPM, which Megan will research
5. Additional Solar for Town Buildings
 - a. Tom has gotten a Green Mountain Solar estimate for adding ground-mount solar to the Town's land around the community gardens
 - b. We couldn't allocate solar from a new group, so this could be a problem unless there was a Library-dedicated solar system
 - c. We could get another quote for repaneling to see if there is better data
 - i. Jeff will pursue quote from AllEarth
 - ii. Tom will share GMS quote

- d. We should complete the benchmarking data before making any decisions
 - e. There is some concern about the embedded carbon issue when the panels still have some panel life if we were to just re-panel
 - f. We should think about other locations for solar like a picnic shelter or parking canopy or a roof (Robinson School?) before re-paneling
6. Starksboro Public Library Energy and Ventilation Project
- a. Plan is to propose using ARPA Town funds to add a ventilation system and central heat pump to the Library
 - b. Tom thinks it would use an additional 5.8 kw of solar at the Library for heat pump
 - i. 6380 kWh of electricity needed to get to net zero
 - ii. Would replace the existing 372 gallons of oil/yr used
 - c. Previous weatherization work done on the building by New Leaf (Tom's business)
 - i. Air leakage got down to 975 CFM50 for the whole building
 - ii. Air sealed the attic floor with a skim coat of foam then added cellulose for a total of 18-24"
 - iii. Also insulated between the floors
 - iv. 3018 kWh/year is currently allocated from Town solar
 - d. Tom was talking with Dave Whitcomb at Champlain Valley Plumbing and Heating that a backup heating system is necessary with heat pumps if they go down
 - i. Alternative is to put in electric resistance coils
 - e. Richard is working with Vermont Energy Contracting and Supply to revise the quote to then share with the Library Board and Select Board
 - i. Quote by mid-January
 - f. Zero Energy Now (ZEN) potential project
 - i. Approximately \$6450 in potential incentives
 - 1. Not including tax credits
 - 2. Could find a private investor to take the additional \$6,000 in tax credits
 - ii. Tom will share his solar upgrade quote from GMS and his CLEAR tool results
 - iii. Jeff will ask for a re-panel quote from AllEarth
 - g. Proposals back to the town
 - i. Ventilation/heat pump with ARPA funds
 - ii. Above plus solar project funded by a third part investor to access ZEN incentives
 - 1. We are concerned about jeopardizing the project by including solar if not allowable by ARPA
7. ARPA and other grants and resources that may be able to help the town
- a. The Library project appears to be the only project we are willing to request at this time
 - b. Other uses for ARPA need to be resilience, broad band, sewage systems, etc. and not energy-related besides ventilation
8. Window Dressers – Robert Turner
- a. Didn't discuss
9. Planning Commission and "Substantial Deference"
- a. ACRPC provided updated maps
 - b. Maps look about the same as before with a few small changes
 - i. Some may try to compare them to see differences

- c. Doesn't show three-phase power coming into States Prison Hollow Road, where the lines currently exist; maps need to reflect this
 - i. Richard will ask ACRPC to update
 - d. These don't really show where potential renewable projects could exist if developers extended power lines to take the energy
 - e. Ask ACRPC to show "potentially feasible" projects that includes wind, solar and biomass
 - i. Certainly, in the northern part of town with the three phase lines
 - ii. Cochran's Ski Area was able to extend a mile of three phase lines within their snowmaking budget, so at least a mile should be feasible
 - f. Could we ask for a map that shows with and without "substantial deference" impacts on where potential projects would be possible/reasonably feasible?
 - g. Without having substantial deference, the PUC would still override the town's will
 - h. Act 250 might be an analogous policy to point to as an example of why having substantial deference would be advantageous
 - i. Richard could ask the ACRPC identify the ideal sites and the difference between whether we had substantial deference or not
 - j. Criteria we develop for appropriateness of site
 - i. X miles from 3 phase power
 - ii. Non-prime ag sites
 - k. Revisit at a future meeting after more thought
10. Town Report
- a. A few edits and send off the Amy McCormick
11. Creation of a Town Energy Fund and/or energy budget from the Town
- a. Weybridge added \$.01 to their property tax rate a number of years ago and have built up a fund for town energy projects
 - b. Richard to ask Koran whether it's too late to add this to this year's budget
12. Not discussed:
- a. Mobile Home Parks
 - b. Starksboro Residents' House Weatherization Projects
 - c. Future Agenda Items
 - i. Food Shelf/New Communities Project outreach and coordination
 - ii. Button Up Campaign/Workshop Update and Promotion of Weatherization
 - iii. Review the zoning by-law to make sure it's in compliance with the energy section of the Town Plan
 - iv. Coordinate with the Climate Economy Action Center (CEAC) of Addison County
 - v. Community Solar
13. Other business
14. Next meeting
- a. February 7, 5:30