

Starksboro Energy Committee

5:30 p.m. Monday January 4, 2021

Virtual Teams Meeting

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Conference ID: 222 356 293#

1. Attendees
  - a. Phil Mosenthal
  - b. Jeff Dunham
  - c. Megan Nedzinski
  - d. Pete Antos Ketcham
  - e. Richard Faesy
  - f. Robyn King
2. Approve Minutes from Dec. 7, 2020
  - a. Megan moved, Jeff seconded
  - b. Passed
3. Public Comments
4. Button Up Campaign/Workshop Update
  - a. Virtual home energy visits are still available for free from Efficiency Vermont
  - b. Robyn will post on FPF
  - c. Training videos are also available and will highlight in her post
  - d. New Communities will spread the word in town
5. Food Shelf/New Communities Project outreach and coordination
  - a. Efficiency Vermont plans to release some information for low-income folks and will make available to New Communities, Pete's organization
  - b. Last year there was the possibility of supporting both of our local food shelf programs so Robyn will look into whether this might still be available
6. Benchmarking Town Buildings Project Update
  - a. Celine and Robert Turner have been sent enrollment information for Energy Star Portfolio Manager
  - b. Robyn is going to set up a training once they accept the enrollment information
  - c. There is a training webinar sponsored by VT Green Building Network on 1/7 at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/energy-benchmarking-save-time-energy-and-money-tickets-131953365067>
  - d. Energy usage vs. costs
    - i. With the GMP credits, it becomes confusing how to allocate costs in ESPM

- ii. Energy use is energy use and is not as confusing as cost and allocations across buildings with the solar system
    - iii. Keep the focus on energy use to begin with until the new treasurer comes on board before bringing in costs
    - iv. Better would be to set up with costs without incorporating the solar credits at this point
  - e. Plans for next Town Treasurer
    - i. Celine works until March and then we elect a new treasurer
    - ii. FPF notes that new treasurer will be elected
    - iii. Jeff will reach out to Cheryl to see if there a new person running for treasurer and then will let Robyn know who it is to train with Robert and Celine
  - f. Robyn will:
    - i. Reach out to Robert and Celine to set up training
    - ii. Will inform them about the 1/7 VGBN webinar
    - iii. Will invite new treasurer
- 7. Library
  - a. Librarian is concerned about ventilation in the library
  - b. Energy Recovery Ventilator may be expensive, but EVT may have some incentives available
  - c. Jeff reached out to Robyn and she set up a site visit from Efficiency Vermont to explore incentives through a clarifying walkthrough
  - d. Tom Perry did the work on the building 10 years ago
    - i. May have isolated library ceiling from upstairs space
    - ii. He would remember the details
  - e. Librarian would like to update upstairs space some day
    - i. Library board has been looking into grants for ADA compliance to help get upstairs
  - f. Librarian may share results with Jeff
- 8. Update on Paul's Electricity Reporting Tool
  - a. No updates
  - b. Jeff will follow up to ask Celine to provide access to Paul from GMP
- 9. Solar PV
  - a. Determine what to recommend once we complete benchmarking
  - b. Plans for approaching Select Board
    - i. We should wait until we have an "ask" to make to them, after Town Meeting
- 10. Town Plan Energy Sections
  - a. Substantial deference coordination with the Planning Commission
  - b. Response from Katie Raycroft-Meyer, ACRPC:
    - i. The next step for the Starksboro enhanced energy plan would be for Addison Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) to hold a public hearing to review the plan. This meeting would be run by the ACRPC Energy subcommittee, who have read the plan and my review. It is an opportunity for all parties present to ask questions and for the ACRPC energy committee to recommend regional approval of the plan to the full commission if that is their decision.

The hearing needs to be warned 15 days prior and should be part of a regular Starksboro PC meeting. I will also send out copies of the plan and review to all members.

The hearings usually do not take more than 30-45 minutes.

Let me know how you want to proceed. We will not be able to make the timing for the 21st but we can for February 4th. I will need to get the notice to the paper by January 18th.

I hope this helps,

Katie

Katie Raycroft-Meyer

Community Planner

- c. We agreed that we should move forward with Feb. 4 meeting.
    - i. Richard to reach out to Denny and Katie to set this up
    - ii. Offer to meet with them on 1/21 to answer any questions and get on the same page ahead of time
      1. May start at 7:00
    - iii. Richard let SEC know of outcomes
  - d. Review the zoning by-law to make sure it's in compliance with the energy section of the Town Plan
    - i. Once we have ACRPC approval, we may want to bring forward, but wait a few months
    - ii. Address the Substantial Deference question first
    - iii. Find out when the by-laws are being updated
11. Starksboro Residents' House Weatherization Projects
- a. Richard talked to Rick M. about one project, but it would involve cleaning out the attic, which his mother does not want to have happen, so weatherizing this house is deferred for now, unfortunately
  - b. Pete has checked in with CVOEO and they have LR on their list to work on this month
12. Town Meeting Report language from SEC:

### **Starksboro Energy Committee 2020 Update**

The Starksboro Energy Committee (SEC) continued our work in 2020 towards our mission "to work with residents, businesses, and the Town to ensure our community's long-term energy future and energy independence by changing the way we use, produce, and relate to energy". Committee members include Jeff Dunham, Megan Nedzinski, Pete Antos-Ketcham, Phil Mosenthal and Richard Faesy (chair) along with new regular volunteer, Robyn King. While we used to meet in person at the Town Clerk's office on the first Monday of the month from 5:30 – 7:30, we seamlessly transitioned to on-line virtual meetings in May 2020 after cancelling our April meeting due to the coronavirus. Our agendas, minutes and connection information are posted on the Starksboro town website. Meetings are open to anyone who would like to join us.

Some of the SEC activities and accomplishments in 2020 include the following:

- Our priority this year has been "benchmarking" the energy use and cost of the town's buildings. This has involved gathering up all the historical energy bills from the different fuel dealers and

Green Mountain Power for the town's eight buildings, setting up an "ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager" account for each building and then analyzing the data. Benchmarking will allow for better energy management of the town's buildings by tracking energy use, comparisons to other similar buildings and prioritization of future energy projects.

- We have also been looking into the best way to supply the town's buildings with solar-generated electricity. Our solar panels on Parsonage Road supply about 80% of the electricity the town uses currently, so we have been reviewing proposals and weighing the best deal for the town.
- We have been working with the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) to seek approval for the town's Energy Plan, developed by the Planning Commission with support from the SEC. Starksboro's Energy Plan was commended as "the clearest and best written energy plan they have read". The SEC will be working with the Starksboro Planning Commission and the ACRPC to be approved for "substantial deference" which would give the town standing in any future energy siting proposals.
- The electric vehicle charging station has been up and running since the fall of 2019.
- We have continued to work with a few town residents to help them apply for home weatherization assistance.
- We assisted the Jerusalem Schoolhouse Committee with review of the energy aspects of the proposed renovations.

For more information or to get involved, contact Richard (Digger) Faesy at [arfaesy@gmavt.net](mailto:arfaesy@gmavt.net) or (802) 355-9153.

13. Other business

- a. Robyn King is interested in being appointed to the Committee
- b. Peter will be stepping down after Town Meeting, so Robyn could take his seat when he steps down after March 1
- c. Richard should reach out to Koran to appoint Robyn to Pete's seat
- d. Board seats as of February 2018:
  - i. Richard – 3 years (Feb. 2021)
  - ii. Pete – 3 years (Feb. 2021)
  - iii. Jeff -2 years (Feb. 2020)
  - iv. Megan -2 years (Feb. 2020)
  - v. Phil -1 year (Feb 2019)

14. Next meeting

- a. February 1, 2021 5:30 pm

15. Adjourned 7:12 pm