

Starksboro Energy Committee
6:00 p.m. Monday October 4, 2021
Virtual Teams Meeting

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Conference ID: 222 356 293#

1. Attendees
 - a. Megan
 - b. Pete
 - c. Richard
 - d. Jeff
2. Approve Minutes from June 21, 2021 v.2 and September 13, 2021
 - a. Pete moved, Megan seconded
 - b. Approved
3. Public Comments
4. Planning Commission and “Substantial Deference”
 - a. Jeff Keeney responded on 9/22 and asked “...we were looking for specific locations not a broad areas based on our regulations.”
 - i. Maybe it would help to personally reach out or meet in person to try to explain the benefits of substantial deference
 - ii. Since the Robinson School closing has been pushed off, maybe the PC would have time to address this issue at this time
 - b. We should get on a future PC after Pete talks directly with Denny Casey
 - c. Pete will let us know what he hears and then we’ll plan for next steps
5. Select Board Report Planning
 - a. Substantial deference and PC response
 - i. Work though with the PC first to see where it gets us
 - b. Starksboro Public Library Energy and Ventilation Project
 - i. Richard has lined up Vermont Energy Contracting and Supply on 10/27 at 10:00 to provide an estimate for a central heat pump tied to the existing oil system and a mech ventilation system
 - ii. Proposal is for ARPA funding if the town decides this would be a good project
 - iii. Richard let Koran know this is happening
 - c. ARPA and other grants and resources that may be able to help the town
 - i. Library
 - ii. Jeff will look into repaneling the AllEarth trackers

- iii. There is the need to do deep energy weatherization at many of the town buildings
 - iv. Old Town Office
 - 1. Replace all of the old appliances
 - 2. There are weatherization measures needed, including the door
 - v. Think about projects to put forward
 - d. EV Charging Station Updates
 - i. Jeff has been asked by Eric Cota what the Town should be charging given the GMP 4% rate increase
 - ii. Most of the Town's energy is produced by the solar panels that are just about paid off and since most cars charge during the day, they are being powered by the sun
 - iii. If we think that the trackers have 15 years left, cost is about \$10/kWh while we are charging customers \$15/kWh
 - 1. 37,000 average kWh/year
 - 2. \$55,800 cost for the panels over 15 years
 - 3. Over 15 years, this would cost us about \$.10/kWh for generating the electricity from solar
 - 4. We are charging users \$.15/kWh
 - 5. So the town is clearing its costs
 - 6. Jeff will get back to Eric Cota with a recommendation to not change rates
- 6. Benchmarking Town Buildings Project Update
 - a. Review benchmarking analysis and metrics
 - i. Robyn wasn't able to attend, so we will need to wrap this up next month, hopefully
 - b. Identify priority projects and opportunities once complete
 - c. Next steps
 - i. This will only rank buildings, but won't provide a lot more project-level detail
 - ii. This information might help us identify priority buildings
 - iii. Wait for Robyn before moving this to completion
- 7. Window Dressers
 - a. This seems to be well-suited to many Starksboro folks who limit their wintertime to a few rooms
 - b. Robert Turner may be willing to help out
 - c. Pete will spread the word with his folks to search out volunteers and will connect with Robert and report back
- 8. Future Agenda Items
 - a. Food Shelf/New Communities Project outreach and coordination
 - i. Nothing more at this point
 - b. Button Up Campaign/Workshop Update and Promotion of Weatherization
 - i. Robyn was going to try to put together some materials to share
 - c. Starksboro Residents' House Weatherization Projects
 - i. Pete is trying to enroll some more folks who had reached out

- ii. One or two homes a year
 - d. Review the zoning by-law to make sure it's in compliance with the energy section of the Town Plan
 - i. Defer until a later time
 - e. Coordinate with the Climate Economy Action Center (CEAC) of Addison County
 - i. We're not sure what makes sense here
 - f. Community Solar
 - i. Wait for PSD program offering to apply
 - g. Mobile Home Parks
 - i. All are in need of a lot of work
 - ii. Addison County Community Trust has been a funder in other parks
 - 1. Elise Shanbacher is ED
 - 2. Megan will reach out
 - iii. VERMOD as an option
 - iv. Density could be maintained with
 - v. Richard should reach out to Craig Peltier at VHCB to see what the opportunities
- 9. Other business
 - a. The pottery building is vacated. Pete will check thermostats to make sure the heat pumps are set at the right level.
 - b. There are 7 cords of wood available in the Wood Bank
 - i. Program is designed for emergency situations later in winter
- 10. Adjourned 7:42
- 11. Next meeting
 - a. Moving the time back to 5:30 November 1