

Starksboro Energy Committee

5:30 p.m. Monday October 5, 2020

Virtual Teams Meeting

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Conference ID: 222 356 293#

1. Attendees
 - a. Megan
 - b. Jeff
 - c. Pete
 - d. Richard
 - e. Robyn King
 - i. Works at Efficiency Vermont as community manager
2. Approve Minutes from Sept. 14, 2020
 - a. Pete moved, Jeff seconded
 - b. Unanimously approved
3. Public Comments
 - a. None
4. Benchmarking Town Buildings Project
 - a. Update on discussion with Celine
 - i. Richard will follow back up with Koran to figure out whether we can reach out to Celine (Koran approved reaching out to her right after the meeting)
 - ii. With approval, Jeff, Megan and Robyn to train Celine on ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (ESPM) on tracking the Town's energy use
 - b. Completing 2019 data
 - i. We have data through June 2019
 - ii. Jeff will reach out to the providers to update us with recent information through September 2020
 - iii. When we have that information in hand, we can see if Celine would be able to fill it in
 - c. Next steps
 - i. Richard follow up with Koran to see about next steps
 - ii. Pete and Phil are still outstanding in terms of accepting ESPM approval, so we will work with them next meeting to enroll
 1. Robyn can help others connect to ESPM
 - iii. Richard sent out Dropbox link to let everyone else link in and share files
5. Update on Paul's Electricity Reporting Tool

- a. Jeff will follow up with Celine to ask her to make GMP link available to Paul to connect to the data from GMP
 - b. Once Paul has this approval, he would then set up the town's account
 - c. Jeff will then follow up with Paul
6. Solar PV
- a. Determine what to recommend
 - i. May be two parts to recommendation:
 - 1. Deficit at old town office
 - 2. Jerusalem School House renovation (although that's not happening anytime soon)
 - b. Plans for approaching Select Board
 - i. Watch what is happening with economic fallout with the town and deficits before we make any recommendations to the town to upgrade solar
 - ii. Take a temperature reading of the town before approaching them
 - iii. Complete benchmarking to determine needs then come up with a plan
7. Town Plan Energy Section
- a. Substantial deference question
 - i. Response from ACRPC, Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Community Planner:
 - 1. "We are just about done reviewing Starksboro's Enhanced Energy plan. For the town to receive Substantial Deference for energy project reviews, the plan needs to get regional approval. The Starksboro PC and the ACRPC energy committee and local government committee would need to hold a public hearing. The committee's then make a recommendation to the full commission for approval. That process gets reported to the State. I can set this up for Starksboro if you are ready. If you have questions about your zoning regs coinciding with the Enhanced Energy plan, you should clear that up first. If there are specific questions I may be able to help you. Let me know how you want to proceed."
 - ii. Richard responded to Katie to inquire whether our Town Energy Plan actually meets the standards for "substantial deference"
 - b. Zoning and Energy Plan alignment
 - i. We will wait to hear Katie's response to determine next steps
 - c. We had some questions about "substantial deference" and will need to do some more research to better understand the benefits before approaching the Planning Commission
 - d. If the SEC wants to pursue substantial deference, we should coordinate with the Planning Commission based on feedback from ACRPC
 - e. Next steps
 - i. Wait to hear back from Katie then plan next steps at our November meeting
8. Starksboro Residents' House Weatherization Projects
- a. No updates at this time
 - b. Nothing new at CVOEO; backlog due to insufficient staffing to do the work
 - c. Pete will continue to try line up these jobs

9. Button Up Campaign/Workshop Plans for 2020
 - a. Robyn volunteered to help promote Weatherization Wednesdays in Starksboro
 - b. Virtual Home Energy Visits
 - i. Virtual with a phone
 - ii. 10 available for Starksboro
 - iii. Q1 2021 availability
 - c. Front Porch Forum is the best way to get the word out
 - d. Robyn will draft up something to share to post every 3 weeks
 - e. "Leave-behinds" emailed or mailed after phone audit and chat
 - f. Theme is "neighbors helping neighbors" and DIY before major steps
 - g. Incentives are up to 50% capped at \$4000 for low/moderate income or \$1000 for higher income Vermonters for weatherization
 - h. About 120% of state median income (SMI)
 - i. Pete can make copies to hand out at the Food Pantry
 - i. Robyn will send copy to Pete to print and hand out
 - ii. There will be a "Free Pantry" behind the Church next year
10. Other business
 - a. New Communities Project is supporting wood heating fuel wood bank
 - i. Working with Huntington on heating needs, neighbor-to-neighbor
 - ii. Preparing for a hard winter with high expected needs
11. Next meeting
 - a. November 2, 5:30