

Starksboro Energy Committee

5:30 p.m. Monday February 6, 2023

Virtual Teams Meeting

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Conference ID: 222 356 293#

1. Pete Antos Ketcham, Jeff Dunham, Richard Faesy
2. Public Comments
 - a. None
3. Approve Minutes from 1/9/23 Meeting
 - a. 5 D: Rebecca is “now” and not “not” the zoning administrator, so edit minutes accordingly
 - b. Pete moved the amended minutes, Jeff seconded
 - c. Approved unanimously.
4. ARPA Proposals
 - a. Last minute submission of proposals came in in Dec
 - i. Friends of Robinson School
 - ii. Jerusalem Schoolhouse had three proposals
 - b. In a month or two the Committee will provide recommendation to the Select Board
 - c. No word on our submissions:
 - i. Starksboro Public Library Energy and Ventilation Project
 - ii. Pavilion Solar PV
5. Weatherization of Town Homes
 - a. Pete’s notes from meeting regarding weatherization resources:
 - i. Pete met with Dwight DeCoster, CVOEO weatherization director
 - ii. The program has indeed received more money and has been able to staff up to a certain extent in order to help speed up response to demand.
 - iii. Workforce is still a huge problem. He is competing with other sectors for qualified applicants.
 - iv. The income eligibility on the website is accurate for weatherization only. The situation Pete ran into with the furnace in the trailer last winter is held to a different and much lower income level. That is a different pot of money and they don't have control over the income eligibility levels for the heating funds.

- v. The current timeline, while faster than in the past, is still constrained by a prioritization system based on a scoring system that they can't deviate from. It prioritizes certain situations and conditions (i.e., elderly, disabled, children, etc.) and while this is important it does put a lot of people who have structures in need much further out on the timeline - if you score low enough it could be years.
 - vi. We should have the basic information we need from their website to create the one-pager we discussed at our meeting.
 - vii. While they will get to those that score the highest, this will still leave a lot of people who need help with their structures waiting to be weatherized. If we truly want to move the needle on the thermal sector to meet energy and climate goals we have to find a way to expand weatherization to address this vast swath of the housing stock.
 - viii. With the workforce issue, this is going to be a harder nut to crack.
 - ix. SEC should promote and encourage people signing up.
 - x. Pete handed out information at the last food shelf and will continue to hand out materials going forward.
 - xi. WAP envelope improvements have higher income caps than heating system funds, which have lower income guidelines for eligibility.
 - xii. Pete is working with a number of people to help them move through the process, but there are some challenging hurdles that need to be worked through
 - 1. Continue to direct people through CVOEO to get them into the services.
6. Energy Audits for Town Buildings
- a. [Act 172](#) Opportunity (up to \$500,000/town for “municipal energy resilience”)
 - i. Pete met with Maddi Shropshire from ACRPC is a good contact for local information
 - ii. First Round will be mini-grants of up to \$4K. They hope to have this set up and ready for application by Town Meeting Day.
 - iii. Towns will be prioritized based on energy burden, as determined by Efficiency Vermont.
 - iv. Future Second Round will be free energy audits.
 - v. Future Third Round is the larger grant - this is confirmed to be up to \$500K for municipal building energy improvements.
 - vi. The timeline for the larger grant is that they won't be ready for applications until next year.
 - vii. The SEC should keep an eye on the application process. We are set up with all of the benchmarking work we have done for our municipal buildings.
7. Committee Membership
- a. Pete will be stepping down
 - b. Need to find and recruit new participants
 - c. Who is interested? Consider asking at Town Meeting
8. Weatherization Campaign
- a. This will be a prolonged goal for the SEC to get the word out and homes weatherized

- b. Get applications printed out and paper available
 - c. New Communities and all the SEC members should be available as resources
 - i. Connect people to deeper availability resources
 - d. Town Clerks office
 - i. Make sure Amy and Rebcca know about the weatherization campaign
 - e. Library
 - f. Town website electronic
 - g. Paper copies also
 - h. School handouts to go home with kids
 - i. Pete will reach out to Dwight to get copies to put around town
 - i. Includes brochure and prepaid envelope
 - j. Make a resource packet available
 - i. WAP Application – 8 pages
 - ii. CVOEO Brochure
 - iii. Summary Flyer
 - 1. Issues with weatherization, heating, and hot water equipment
 - 2. Organizations with more information:
 - a. WAP/CVOEO
 - b. EVT
 - c. GMP
 - d. VEC
 - 3. Application location
 - 4. Where to pick up paper info and applications
 - 5. For handing out at Town Meeting or other events
 - a. School handouts to go home with kids
 - iv. Pete can work on pulling something together with Jeff
 - k. Richard should reach out to Rebecca to line up web site and think about setting up web site and making paper handouts available at the Town Clerk’s office
 - i. Townwide mailing?
 - ii. Special request for funding?
 - l. Make paper available
 - i. Town clerk
 - ii. Library
 - iii. Food Shelf
 - iv. Jerusalem Store
9. Town Meeting Plans
- a. Energy Committee Update, recruit new SEC members, but focus on...
 - b. Announce Wx initiative
 - i. Try to get the word out through those who show up and “deputize” them
 - 1. You know about people and homes that could use our help
 - ii. Simple mailing to everyone in town
 - iii. Hand out to school kids
 - iv. Our goal is to get the word out and help encourage weatherization of town homes

- v. How are we going to get the word out?
 - vi. Interested in getting the word out, sign up
 - vii. Clipboard with sign up sheet
 - 1. Richard, Pete and Jeff can collect names
- 10. Mobile Home Parks
 - a. Focus on getting them signed up with CVOEO for Weatherization
- 11. Energy Corner
 - a. Weatherization Campaign
 - b. Use flyer as basis for website
 - c. Reach out to Rebecca once we have a flyer to post
- 12. Other business
 - a. Jeff is still thinking about 3 phase power
- 13. Next meetings
 - a. 3/6/23 Energy Committee