

Starksboro Energy Committee

5:30 p.m. Monday April 3, 2023

Virtual Teams Meeting

1. Attendees
 - a. Richard Faesy
 - b. Jeff Dunham
 - c. Guest Brad Long, Efficiency Vermont
2. Public Comments
 - a. None
3. Approve Minutes from 2/6/23 and 3/6/23 Meetings
 - a. No quorum so deferred vote until later
4. Committee Membership
 - a. Jeff and Richard are interested in continuing at SEC members
 - b. Robyn sent an email noting that she expected to have more time in the future to participate and would like to stay on
 - c. Megan also indicated in an email that she is interested in staying on
 - d. Pete may be willing to stay on if we are able to make some meeting time changes to better accommodate his schedule.
 - e. Rich Warren expressed interest in joining if there is an opening.
 - f. Richard emailed Rebecca letting her know of the status and suggesting that we would be open to a sixth committee member if the Select Board approves.
5. Weatherization Campaign
 - a. Coordination with Efficiency Vermont
 - b. Brad Long attended to provide information
 - c. Summarized Starksboro energy situation
 - i. New Communities organization
 - ii. Mobile Homes and single family homes
 1. Mobile homes are generally owned but located on rented land
 - iii. Older housing stock generally
 - d. EVT incentives
 - i. Will be increasing in the near future
 - ii. % of project will be increased that they will cover
 - e. Services to convey to interested people:
 - i. What is the program
 - ii. How to get the word out
 - iii. How to get people to engage
 - f. CVOEO
 - i. May be the best option for mobile homes
 - ii. EVT Home Performance may not service mobile homes
 - g. Reaching participants

- i. Mobile Homes
 - 1. Double response rate when mailed out on Town letterhead
 - a. Vs. Town Energy Committee or other means
 - 2. Door knocking campaign
 - 3. Community organizers may provide access quarterly meetings
 - a. But not very successful
 - 4. Pre-recorded YouTube sessions may be helpful
 - ii. Multifamily Property
 - 1. Don't typically address heating systems
 - 2. Fossil fuel to bio or electric and weatherization
 - 3. 3E Thermal is available for MF
 - a. Rent level eligibility
 - b. Desire to owner
 - c. Better for 4-5+ units
 - 4. Most complex to address
 - a. Owner/renter, finances, split incentives
 - 5. Find list of MF buildings from Town
 - iii. Rental Property Owners
 - 1. See link to EVT
 - iv. Ownership Projects
 - 1. Home Performance with ENERGY STAR
 - 2. 75% up to \$5000
 - 3. Through Efficiency Excellence Network contractors
 - 4. But small contractor base
- h. Button Up Campaign
- i. Things should be better now to enroll
 - ii. Starksboro should consider participating
 - iii. October
 - iv. Weatherization Wednesdays planning
 - 1. DIY
 - 2. Learning
 - 3. Financing, etc.
 - v. Live Event may also be an option
 - vi. Spring campaign is the best time to do the work, but fall is when people pay attention
- i. Front Porch Forum Posts
- i. Circulate general information
 - ii. Use it as an ask
 - 1. Do you have a neighbor with high heating costs or is cold, here is some information
 - iii. Word of mouth
 - iv. Find people within the community as advocates to share their experience
 - 1. Neighbors helping neighbors
 - a. Create advocates and have them serve as spokespeople

- j. Window Dressers
 - i. Could be a good way to get a foot in the door for more than just drafty windows
 - ii. Going in to measure up windows could lead to more
 - iii. Start small
 - 1. Measuring team
 - 2. Could work with Bristol (Sally Allen)
 - 3. Coordinate with church, Quakers
- k. Poster around towns to advertise
- l. Town-wide events
 - i. EVT could come to table
- m. Schools is center of community and could be a link for cross pollination
- n. Coordinate with Bristol and Hinesburg where people go to buy food and see coordinated events with other towns
 - i. Same messaging in border towns
 - ii. Reach out to town energy committees to collaborate
- o. Efficiency Vermont could be the one call to coordinate and call a single office for referrals
 - i. CVOEO
 - ii. EVT
 - 1. Call center
 - 2. Virtual Home Energy Visit
 - a. Provides a prioritized list
 - b. See link to Home Energy Assessments at EVT
 - c. Designed to not overwhelm homeowners and establish a relationship with an energy engineer
 - iii. NeighborWorks
 - iv. Contact Center
 - 1. Usually reach a real person
- p. Brad's available to help
 - i. Figure out what we want to focus on and medium to reach people
 - ii. Lots of materials available in fall with Button Up Campaign
 - iii. Brad may be able to help
- q. Messages
 - i. Do you have mold and mildew issues, dehumidifier, heat pump water heater...
 - ii. Drafty in winter, hot in the summer...
- r. Next steps
 - i. Figure out where to start so that we're building up to fall Button Up campaign
 - ii. Reach out to neighboring towns
 - iii. Share messages monthly through the summer
 - iv. Sign up for Button Up Campaign
 - v. Brad will draft up some FPF message we could wordsmith and use to post
 - 1. Build up to Button Up Campaign through the summer
 - vi. Set up an Energy Committee email account for people to respond to
 - 1. Rebecca could potentially help us set it up

- vii. Brad Long 802-735-8083
 - 1. blong@veic.org
 - 2. EVT 888-921-5990
 - viii. Robyn volunteered to via email to help
 - 1. Suggest that she start submitting Front Porch Forum posts
- 6. Energy Grant Resources for Town Buildings
 - a. [Act 172](#) (MERP Grant) Opportunity
 - b. Potential buildings
 - i. Library
 - ii. Jerusalem School House
 - c. \$4k grant could cover:
 - i. Food
 - ii. Transportation
 - iii. Sugar on Snow event
 - iv. Town event
 - d. From Rebecca, Town Administrator -
 - i. If you can see who would be willing and able to help with planning for and attending an event. I need to vet dates with the Selectboard, Amy, RPC, and a few others, but I'm thinking one of the following: 5/20, 5/27, 6/3, or 6/10. Most important that we get a date that works for broad group and won't compete with sporting events to whatever extent possible. (That may be a reason to consider a Sunday instead?)
 - ii. The energy related display(s) and information would be up to you and the group. Amy and I can support the printing and pushing out on website and social media.
 - e. Questions:
 - i. What would be the draw to bring people in?
 - ii. Set up a meeting with the Committee and Rebecca
 - iii. Meeting options
 - 1. 4/10, 11, 13 – 12:00
 - 2. RF to send out meeting request
- 7. ARPA Proposals
 - a. Starksboro Public Library Energy and Ventilation Project
 - b. Pavilion Solar PV
 - c. Wait and see
 - d. M
- 8. Energy Corner
 - a. Weatherization Campaign
 - b. Brad Long will provide some examples
- 9. Other business
- 10. Next meetings
 - a. 5/1/23 Energy Committee