

Starksboro Energy Committee

Meeting Notes

5:30 p.m. Monday May 1, 2023

1. Welcome
 - a. Attendees
 - i. Richard Faesy
 - ii. Rich Warren
 - iii. Jeff Dunham
2. Public Comments - none
3. Approve Minutes from 2/6/23, 3/6/23, and 4/3/23 Meetings
 - a. Jeff moved to approve all three sets of minutes
 - b. Richard seconded
 - c. Unanimously approved
4. Committee Membership
 - a. Rich Warren joined the committee; welcome!
5. Energy Grant Resources for Town Buildings
 - a. [Act 172](#) (MERP Grant) Opportunity
 - i. Projects under consideration:
 1. Library HVAC project
 2. Jerusalem School House HVAC & possibly weatherization
 3. Solar on Pavilion
 - ii. Rebecca Elder will be working on grants for these applications
 - iii. Part of this funding includes \$4,000 that can be spent for a town event promoting energy awareness (see next section)
 - b. Town Event
 - i. Town gathering is being considered for June
 1. June 17 would work best for Jeff, Rich and Richard
 2. (After the meeting, we were informed that it is now planned for June 4)
 3. Tabling from Energy Committee, Planning Commission, Library
 4. Pavilion fund raising
 5. New Communities
 - ii. SEC would have a table
 1. Committee members to consider coming and staffing the table on June 4
 - iii. Energy Committee was planning to use its June 6 SEC meeting to plan for a tabling event (but will need to do via email now that it's June 4)
 - iv. Some ideas for SEC table:
 1. Info sharing on energy resources available for residents
 - a. CVOEO Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) free energy upgrades for income eligible residents brochures
 - b. ACRPC 1-page handouts

2. Efficiency Vermont free kits
 - a. RF to see if Robyn can round up
 3. Exercise bike that powers lights or a fan, if there is one we might borrow
 4. Committee members available to answer questions
- c. Grants
- i. Richard had a meeting with Rebecca and discussed her role in supporting pursuing grants for town committees
 - ii. Rebecca will lead larger grant efforts
 - iii. Susan Thompson will continue with libraries
 - iv. Keep in touch and communicate
6. ARPA Proposals
- a. Two projects have been submitted for consideration:
 - i. Starksboro Public Library Energy and Ventilation Project
 - ii. Pavilion Solar PV
 - b. Ideas for the Pavilion
 - i. Look into making the roof out of solar panels to save the roofing costs
 - ii. Rich and Jeff will research
 - iii. Richard will ask Susan Thompson about replacing the standing seam roof with PV panels
 - c. June 1 recommendations will be made to the SB from the town ARPA Committee
 - d. Decision for funding over the summer by the SB
 - e. Rebecca will then use ARPA funds to leverage other funds
7. Weatherization Campaign Plans
- a. Front Porch Forum Postings
 - i. Efficiency Vermont sent out drafted postings
 - b. New email, add Rich Warren to receive
 - c. Richard to post EVT's write up on the Front Porch Forum (first one submitted on 5/7/23).
 - i. Brad Long from EVT provided three write-ups:
 1. Spring has sprung, and our heating season is winding down, and the Starksboro Energy Committee wants to encourage you to think about next heating season now! Weatherizing your home is one of the best investments a homeowner can make to help ensure building resilience, reduce energy use and improve occupant comfort. The process of weatherizing can start small, with quick projects a homeowner might be able to do, or can evolve into a more comprehensive project handled by professional weatherization contractors. Efficiency Vermont has incentives to help Vermonters weatherize their homes – check out <https://www.encyvermont.com/rebates/list/home-performance-with-energy-star> to learn more. Or contact members of the Starksboro Energy Committee at Energy@Starksborovt.org for more information.
 2. Did you have icicles hanging off or your roof this past winter? That means your home is experiencing a lot of heat loss, and that means your heating bill is higher than it needs to be. The Starksboro Energy

Committee has partnered with Efficiency Vermont to help get some information out to the community and wants you to know about Efficiency Vermont's Virtual Home Energy Visit. The free virtual visit is designed to help homeowners gain a better understanding of where their building is losing the most energy and what incentives, technical services and financing products are available to tighten things up before the next heating season is upon us. Sign up for a free assessment today and get started at

<https://www.encyvermont.com/services/energy-assessments/home-energy-assessments> . Or contact members of the Starksboro Energy Committee at Energy@Starksborovt.org for more information.

3. Heat pumps – weatherization – home appliance – where can you save the most energy, find ways to be more comfortable in your home and make the most cost-effective energy investments in your home? The Starksboro Energy Committee wants you to know about Efficiency Vermont's free service designed to help you navigate all of these topics, in addition to incentives to help bring down the cost of these investments and financing your project. It's called the Home Energy Assessment, and it's free from Efficiency Vermont. Sign up for your assessment today and talk to a residential engineer about your home, your goals, and get some of your questions answered. It's free, it's custom and it's the place to start when you're trying to navigate making your home more efficient and comfortable. Visit <https://www.encyvermont.com/services/energy-assessments/home-energy-assessments> . Or contact members of the Starksboro Energy Committee at Energy@Starksborovt.org for more information.

d. Energy Corner

- i. There are now two "Energy Corner" places on the Starksboro.org website
- ii. Set up one "Energy Corner" to avoid having to manage two sites
- iii. Keep on Home Page and link from it to the Energy Committee page accessible from Boards page
- iv. Richard to ask Rebecca to address

e. Button Up Campaign

- i. Consider signing up for October campaign

f. Energy@Starksborovt.org email

- i. Richard to ask Rebecca to add Rich Warren

g. Handouts for town residents and Community Event

- i. Jeff and Pete Antos-Ketcham were going to make a brochure
 1. We reviewed ACRPC's "Energy Programs" 2-pager which may have done what we were looking to do by listing all the available local programs
 2. Richard to ask Rebecca to post on the town web

- ii. Richard also shared CVOEO's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) brochure
 - 1. Richard will ask Rebecca to post on the town website along with the application
- 8. Other business
 - a. ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager updating and managing going forward
 - i. Rebecca may be the right person to load up ESPM monthly data, she had suggested at the meeting Richard had with her
 - ii. Who to work with her to set it up?
 - iii. Richard to reach out to Robyn and Megan to see if they would be willing to meet with Rebecca and Julie Bessette (new treasurer) to train them
 - iv. It would also be helpful if Jeff could help them figure out how to allocate the GMP solar credits
 - 1. Julie works Tues and Thursdays
 - 2. Include Robert Turner?
 - 3. Allocation of group for solar allocations
 - 4. Review every quarter or so to make sure that solar is allocated to the right buildings
 - 5. If excess solar is not used in 12 months, then we may lose it
 - 6. Someone needs to stay on top of credits in addition to updating ESPM
 - 7. GMP's site lists all of the excess credits to reallocate
 - v. Reach out to Julie and Rebecca with a plan
 - b. Jerusalem Schoolhouse Fire Station
 - i. Going to the Select Board for direction of next phase of the project
 - ii. Received DRB approval and setback waiver
 - iii. Roof for fire station could be good site for solar
 - c. Town Solar Trackers
 - i. Solar Site Pollinator Garden
 - 1. The Select Board will be discussing 5/2
 - 2. Energy Committee approves as long as saplings are maintained
 - 3. Town is responsible for mowing
 - 4. All Earth Renewables holds the power purchase agreement
 - ii. Solar Trackers
 - 1. Two of the trackers haven't been tracking
 - 2. Six belong to the Town
 - 3. Rich Warren will communicate with AllEarth Renewables about the out-of-sync trackers
 - 4. Town has a maintenance agreement with AllEarth
 - d. Old Town Clerk Building
 - i. Rebecca reported that she visited the food shelf building and noted repairs and energy efficiency recommendations that need to be made. Hoping to find some funds to support getting a new door, new toilet, water heater, and some newer appliances.
- 9. Next meetings

- a. 6/4 Community Event with SEC Table with resources
- b. 6/5/23 Energy Committee
- c. SEC meeting Times
 - i. 5:30 is a good starting time
 - ii. Consider the second Monday of the month to accommodate Rich's schedule
 - 1. RF Ask Robyn and Megan if second Mondays would work
 - iii. Consider moving to second Monday of the month
 - iv. Ask Rebecca to post them on the calendar and put on the Energy Committee page