

Starksboro Energy Committee

5:30 p.m. Monday June 13, 2022

Virtual Teams Meeting Notes

---

## [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[+1 802-377-3679](#) United States, Middlebury (Toll)

Conference ID: 222 356 293#

1. Attendees
  - a. Richard Faesy
  - b. Megan Nedzinski
  - c. Pete Antos-Ketcham
  - d. Jeff Dunham
  - e. Robyn King
2. Approve Minutes from May 2, 2022
  - a. Richard moved, Pete Seconded, Robyn Abstained
    - i. approved
3. Public Comments –
  - a. no members of the public present
4. Addison County Regional Planning Commission Starksboro Scorecard
  - a. Richard reached out to Regional Planning Commission re: Starksboro's poor score for planning component. This was confirmed as an error and ACRPC is adjusting.
  - b. It is uncertain where/how the update is reflected.
5. Benchmarking Town Buildings Project Update
  - a. JD confirmed that there was an IT problem in 2020 which is what is reflected in the AER solar data. **MN to go back to GMP data and input that instead**
  - b. MN shared update of inputs and analysis to date re: ESPM inputs, data still needed
    - i. **MN and JD to coordinate/continue to fill data gaps and obtain data still needed**
  - c. Why are we doing this?
    - i. To identify path to net zero and reduced emissions
    - ii. Identify opportunities for building improvements and fuel-switching for improved building performance/reduced loads
  - d. Next steps
    - i. **MN to graph this as dollars and emissions by building and over time – timing TBD**
6. Adding More Town Solar
  - a. Wait for benchmarking results to assess
  - b. Before we invest in more, where can we save? What opportunities are there related to what we know now about the buildings?

- c. JD – to follow-up with AER re: more panels and repanelization and to investigate next steps. Pasted below (items i-xii) are notes from last meeting’s discussion.
    - i. All Earth would be willing to install three trackers but not one more tracker
    - ii. Could not set up a new net metered project
    - iii. We could re-panel or add new trackers onto the existing group
    - iv. If we over-produce, they could be allocated to specific buildings and share across different groups
      - 1. But it would be a management challenge to do more than one group
    - v. We may be able to add connected capacity
    - vi. Jeff will provide access to Town accounts to All Earth
    - vii. All Earth would be able to lease for five years
    - viii. Ideas
      - 1. Build carport to have Suncommon or others install
      - 2. If someone purchased and the Library bought into it for now, selling access until the second floor is developed
      - 3. Could we do some sort of mini-grant to give away any excess solar to those in needs
    - ix. We need someone to help us figure out scenarios
    - x. Jeff may be able to spend more time on this to help us figure this out over the next months
    - xi. Who can help cut through all of the fog with the requirements?
    - xii. Maybe Caleb Elder could help us navigate? Or, he might know someone would help.
      - 1. Pete will corner him to inquire to see if he can help
      - 2. Jeff is also willing to pursue
7. Starksboro Public Library Energy and Ventilation Project
- a. RF and Tom Perry were invited to library trustees meeting to discuss proposal, tour the building again, and review weatherization work
  - b. Town has formed an ARPA advisory committee that reports to the SB.
    - i. Purpose – to create a program/system that people can apply for potential use of the funds. Committee has developed an evaluation rubric
    - ii. Funds have to be obligated within two years (i.e. by the end of the year 2024), and we’re currently part way into that timeframe
    - iii. Multiple bids are likely required to meet Town procurement protocols and federal funding requirements
    - iv. Committee meets twice a month moving ahead
    - v. PAK – to follow up re: question of if a proposal can be submitted with an estimate of probable cost and approach with competitive bids to be solicited if proposal is selected
8. Planning Commission and “Substantial Deference”
- a. PAK – no update, but now that school items have been addressed conversations will continue. Some conversations have continued in the meantime.
  - b. JD – Did review powerline coming across from Monkton. It appears that this may be relatively easy/feasible to achieve.

- c. Suggested next steps – continue the conversation to better understand main concerns and request a meeting to review/ discuss/address those concerns.
  - d. JD – to try to map potential build-out scenario related to existing (4) three-phase pathways and potential extension
    - i. JD will also try to compile opinion of probably cost info from recent project
- 9. Energy Committee Budget Request
  - a. No need for this at this time. Remove from the agenda moving ahead.
- 10. Window Dressers – Robert Turner
  - a. tabled, no discussion
- 11. Mobile Home Parks
  - a. tabled, no discussion
- 12. Starksboro Residents’ House Weatherization Projects
  - a. tabled, no discussion
- 13. Future Agenda Items
  - a. Food Shelf/New Communities Project outreach and coordination
    - i. tabled
  - b. Button Up Campaign/Workshop Update and Promotion of Weatherization
    - i. RK to check in at EVT re: program materials and potential assistance to help SEC promote this on FPF
  - c. Review the zoning by-law to make sure it’s in compliance with the energy section of the Town Plan –
    - i. tabled until closure of Planning Commission/Substantial Deference conversation
  - d. Coordinate with the Climate Economy Action Center (CEAC) of Addison County & Other Energy Committees
    - i. Continue to consider each month
  - e. Community Solar
    - i. RF to reach out to TJ Poor at DPS re: next steps
- 14. Other business
  - a. Levels of assessment of weatherization support could be revisited. Could SEC work to do this?
  - b. RF to reach out to SB/Rebecca to Request Town permission to have EVT do existing building walk-throughs and RK will help coordinate when approved by Town
- 15. Next meetings
  - a. July 18
  - b. Skip August meeting
  - c. September 12
- 16. Adjourn at 7:06
  - a. Robyn motioned, Jeff seconded, unanimous vote.