

Starksboro Energy Committee

5:30 p.m. Monday July 18, 2022

Virtual Teams Meeting

1. Attendees
 - a. Pete Antos-Ketcham
 - b. Megan Nedzinski
 - c. Richard Faesy
2. Approve Minutes from 6/13/2022
 - a. Megan moved, Pete seconded
 - b. Unanimously approved
3. Public Comments
 - a. None
4. Adding More Town Solar
 - a. AllEarth Research Findings
 - i. No updates
 - b. Food Shelf Flagpole Solar Light Ideas
 - i. Send recommendations to Rebecca for Select Board consideration
 - ii. <https://www.concordamericanflagpole.com/lighting/american-beacon/>
5. Starksboro Public Library Energy and Ventilation Project
 - a. Information on process coming out on Front Porch Forum within days
 - i. Community survey
 - ii. Application link
 - b. Existing proposal may be able to be submitted as is, without a lot of additional work
 - c. ARPA language may add a few additional questions
 - d. Pete had raised concern about the need to provide three bids in his role on the committee
 - e. Projects will be evaluated based on best price, but after acceptance, will then need to get two more bids
 - f. Town requirement to get three bids over certain cost
 - g. Quick turn-around time for applying, by September
 - h. About \$500k available for the Town
 - i. Projects for some efforts like digitizing land records will be allocated
 - ii. Other projects will be competitive
6. Planning Commission and “Substantial Deference”
 - a. Pete talked with Denny Casey and Jeff Keeney to gauge where they stand on the issue
 - b. What is our ask and what work would PC need to do on their end?
 - i. What is the timeline for needing to move forward? Is there a drop dead date?
 - ii. Joint public hearing needed for ACRPC and Starksboro PC

- iii. ACRPC would then make a determination
 - c. The EC may want to ask for some time at a PC meeting to answer questions without the ACRPC initially, to figure out where we need to get to before bringing them in
 - d. The PC wants the Energy Committee to create our own maps and bring those to the PC, not referencing what is in the Town Plan or bring in maps from the outside
 - i. What does our map look like for the vision of the Town?
 - ii. Jeff Dunham was going to look into overlaying maps, but couldn't make this meeting
 - e. Meeting goals with the PC
 - i. Explain substantial deference and impacts on the Town
 - ii. What we at the EC want for the Town
 - f. Substantial deference questions to address:
 - i. What would it really give the town?
 - ii. Why is it important?
 - iii. What is the effort it will take on our part to move this forward?
 - g. Next steps
 - i. Meet with the ACRPC to get hearing details, agenda, etc.
 - ii. Meet with the PC to explain the substantial deference
 - iii. Discuss with the PC how we can better work together going forward on land use, Town Plan, substantial deference and other common issues
 - 1. How can we collaborate?
 - 2. Opportunities for coordination?
 - iv. Richard to reach out to ACRPC to get logistics, experience with other towns, where substantial deference is
 - v. Then Richard to reach out to PC to see what time they have for us
 - 1. We're there to listen and start a conversation to build some relationship between our committees
7. Benchmarking Town Buildings Project
 - a. No new updates at this time
 - b. Megan is working on it and will keep plugging away on it
 - c. We need this in order to prepare for the Select Board (SB) presentation on 9/20
 - d. Goals for benchmarking
 - i. Understand how the Town has used energy
 - ii. Make recommendations for town projects for building, solar
 - e. It may be unrealistic to expect the town Treasurer to pick this up going forward
 - i. We lost our recent Treasurer, so are seeking a new one
 - f. Steps
 - i. Share an update with the SB
 - 1. 10 buildings and the data
 - 2. Target EUIs from CBECs as a comparison
 - 3. Explain EUIs
 - 4. Show the electric vs. solar
 - ii. Talk about what's next? What are their goals? Net zero for the town? Cover all electric to offset purchased electricity with solar? Local energy? Capital

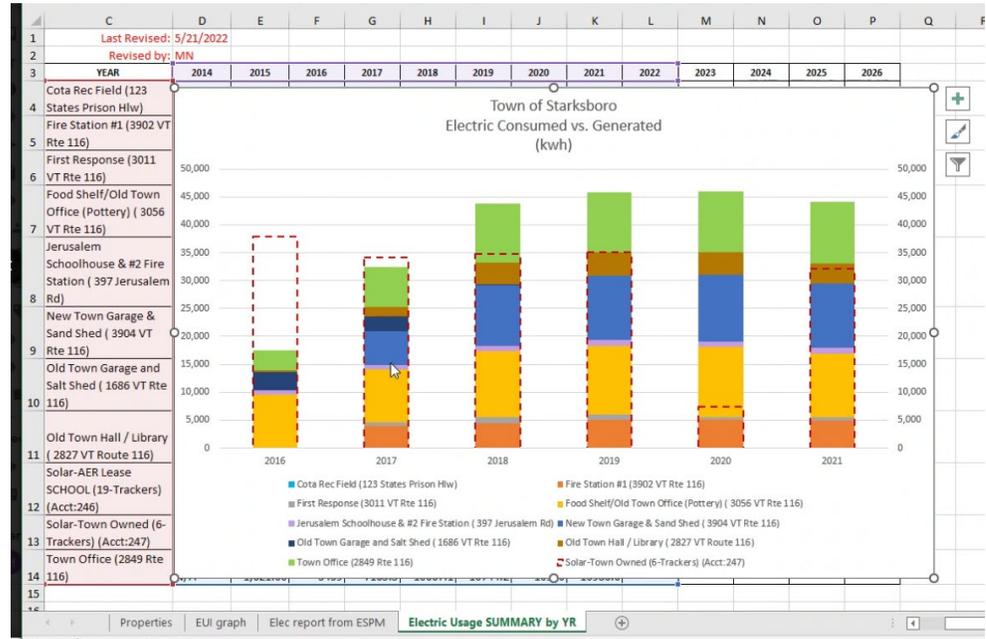
improvement projects that would generate savings? What would they be interested in doing?

1. Opportunities to save money
2. Best ROI
3. Resiliency opportunities

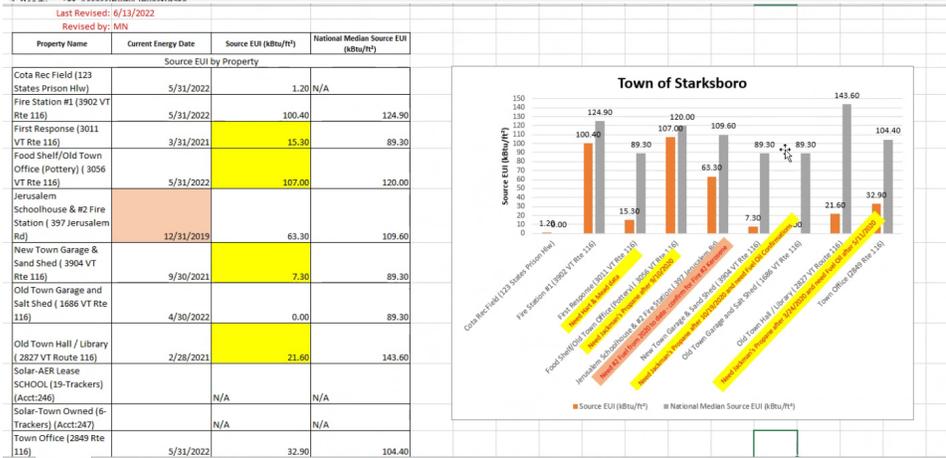
iii. Reducing load and fuel switching would be our priorities

8. Select Board Request for Energy Committee Report

a. Benchmarking Report



i.



ii.

b. Other Updates

- i. Library
- ii. EV charging usage reports
- iii. Planning Commission relationship building and planning
- iv. Weatherizing support for town
- v. Options for increasing solar for the Town
- vi. Mobile Home Parks pursuits and discussion
 1. Peter Schneider

- 2. Elise Scheibecker (AC Community Trust)
- c. Energy Committee Budget Request
 - i. Premature to discuss now
 - ii. Ask the SB how they would like us to spend out time
- d. Recommendations
 - i. Ask the SB what they'd like to see us working on
 - ii. Weatherization, solar, net zero town, other?
 - iii. ARPA funded projects?
- e. SB Meeting Planning
 - i. Sept. 20
- f. Richard to develop a PowerPoint presentation draft for 9/20
- g. Richard to ask Rebecca for timeframe and details
- 9. Prioritizing efforts
 - a. Discuss with the full committee next meeting what we want to focus on
 - b. High priority initiatives
 - i. Benchmarking town buildings
 - ii. Substantial deference
 - iii. Town Planning coordination
 - iv. Initiatives from the Select Board
 - c. There may some initiatives we talk about at a future meeting
 - d. Focus on fewer initiatives. Move the following to a separate parking lot list:
 - i. Mobile Home Parks
 - 1. See what the SB and PC think about how to prioritize effort here
 - ii. Starksboro Residents' House Weatherization Projects
 - 1. Income standards exclude a lot of people who need help
 - 2. Pete has tried to advocate for raising the levels, but was unsuccessful at securing funds for them
 - iii. Food Shelf/New Communities Project outreach and coordination
 - 1. New Communities is running the wood bank
 - iv. Button Up Campaign/Workshop Update and Promotion of Weatherization
 - 1. Robyn can give and update
 - v. Review the zoning by-law to make sure it's in compliance with the energy section of the Town Plan
 - 1. We should strike out unless the PC asks us to review projects
 - 2. May come from PC discussions
 - vi. Window Dressers
 - 1. Robert Turner is looking for someone to take this on in Town
 - 2. We should try to find someone in the community who might want to pursue on our behalf
 - 3. The EC doesn't have the band width to work on this, but may be willing to support someone else taking this this on
 - vii. Coordinate with the Climate Economy Action Center (CEAC) of Addison County & Other Energy Committees
 - 1. Reactive response

viii. Community Solar

1. GMP and VEC will let us know when this program is available

10. Other business

- a. None

11. Next meetings

- a. Skip August meeting
- b. EC meeting September 12
- c. Select Board meeting September 20

12. Adjourned 7:30