

Starksboro Energy Committee

5:30 p.m. Monday August 14, 2023

Virtual Teams Meeting

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[+1 802-377-3679](tel:+18023773679) United States, Middlebury (Toll)

Conference ID: 222 356 293#

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1. Welcome, Attendees
  - a. Rich Warren
  - b. Jeff Dunham
  - c. Richard Faesy
  - d. Guest: Pete Antos-Ketcham
2. Public Comments - none
3. Approve Minutes from 7/10/23 Meeting
  - a. Jeff moved, Rich seconded
  - b. Approved
4. Building Science “BS” and Beer Updates
  - a. No participants attended, so no updates
5. Transitioning ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager to the Town
  - a. Megan was planning to coordinate with Rebecca but was unable to make the meeting, so no updates
6. Grant Updates – Rebecca Elder will attend next month’s meeting to provide updates
  - a. ARPA Town Grant Submissions are pending Select Board approval
    - i. Starksboro Public Library Energy and Ventilation Project
    - ii. Jerusalem Schoolhouse
  - b. Pavilion Solar Roof
    - i. Bristol Electronics has provided a new proposal to roof the entire pavilion with solar panels
      1. It would produce 21,600 kWh if roofed both sides with PVs
      2. Chris Blanchard at BE is waiting to get more information on the gasket systems to reduce drips
      3. Richard reached out to ask about what the Town could do with the excess power; add to the Town’s group from GMP, make it available to a mobile home park, or some other arrangement? Or, do we need to just put on what the Town Clerk’s Office and Library would use?

- ii. Why not bi-facial panels to produce even more power?
  - 1. We may generate more than we need.
- iii. Look at bid and get questions back to Richard to follow up with Chris Blanchard
- iv. Suncommon was not interested in bidding
  - 1. Recommended Encore renewables
  - 2. Richard may follow up but first needs to figure out how we'd manage more electricity than the town needs
- c. [Act 172](#) (MERP Grant)
  - i. Rebecca can give us more information on this at September's meeting
  - ii. \$4,000 may be available to help sponsor a community event
  - iii. Pete Antos-Ketcham joined to discuss options
  - iv. There is a great need but with resources, may be able to bring some folks out
  - v. Mobile home part outreach and connection brainstorming
    - 1. Pete has been spending time in parks
    - 2. Rain this summer has been an issue
    - 3. Challenge has been that owners own homes, but ACCT owns the land
      - a. Can't make changes to land connections to fix piers and footings
    - 4. One mobile home experience
      - a. Flat roof
      - b. Blocks are on shifting land with the heavy rains
      - c. Open pipes, uninsulated ductwork
      - d. But no one can add foundations since ACCT owns the land and it's a challenge for owners to fix things
    - 5. Energy plus other structural resources that might be available
  - vi. What resources are available for all housing?
  - vii. The three different parks have different levels of community interest and potential involvement
  - viii. ACCD
    - 1. Focused on dealing with water and waste water
    - 2. Water to Hillside is pumped up from Lazy Brook
      - a. They are digging up the line to put in check valves
  - ix. New Community Project
    - 1. Pete is staff, but needs to raise funds for projects
    - 2. Helps connect to other resources, but don't have funds to hand out
    - 3. Helps make connections for food, taxes, car issues, roof leaks, foundation issues
    - 4. Can help point to resources
  - x. Options for next steps
    - 1. Put together a compendium of resources that can help folks access information for more than just energy, including housing repairs
    - 2. Grants, not loans
    - 3. Are there organizations that have all of this information in one place?
      - a. VHFA
      - b. CVOEO

- c. ACCD
  - d. United Way
  - e. HOPE
4. Could anyone else help work with us and bring in other resources as we bring MERP funds?
    - a. Focus on mobile homes
  5. It would help if we had data on our situation
    - a. Pull together hard data on home deficiencies to assess issues
    - b. We need metrics to tell the story with data
      - i. Number of trailers
      - ii. Ages
      - iii. Issues
      - iv. Costs for improvement
    - c. ACCT may have this data
    - d. Middlebury or UVM students?
      - i. Need someone locally at the park to manage the relationships
      - ii. Keep data anonymous
      - iii. Invasive studies are frowned upon by residents
  6. Mailer to homeowners
    - a. Energy Committee is working on these issues to try to bring some resources to the table to help out
    - b. Leverage other resources that could also help
  7. Ideas
    - a. Pete could help with connections and relationships
    - b. Who could help professionally diagnose the issues?
      - i. Tom Perry?
    - c. Assemble resources beyond just energy to address the broader issues
    - d. Figure out how to collect the data on the homes in the parks and quantify the issues and potential solutions costs
    - e. We should pursue community wide, but focus on mobile home parks
    - f. Start with a just a few projects, even if we can help fix one or two situations as models for how to move forward as examples
    - g. "Capacity" - Can we use some of the funding to hire someone to help with data and planning to pull together a plan?
      - i. Check with Rebecca
      - ii. Could some of Pete's time be paid for with some funds?
      - iii. Pete would be willing to look into, but would need some scope of work for what we'd want him to do
    - h. Would need to look for model projects
    - i. CVOEO update

- i. Pete will reach out to Dwight Decoster to understand the current waiting list and workforce capacity from CVOEO
      - j. Town Resource Officer
        - i. Pete will talk to the Select Board about a town-based resource officer status
    - 8. \$4000 use from Rebecca
      - a. Richard to reach out to ask how we can use those funds
      - b. Keep Pete posted on what it can and can't be used for and pay for
  - d. Email from Rebecca 8/14:
    - i. "I cannot join you on the call but here's my update: I've gathered the electric bills for compiling the information required on the MERP assessment application. I'm working with Maddie to complete that part and submit. We can then pursue the contract for the assessments to be done.
    - ii. The priority buildings are: town clerk's office, library, Jerusalem schoolhouse, food shelf, garage. I believe we can have 5 buildings assessed."
      - 1. We (the EC and Rebecca) need to get on the same page with the prioritizing the buildings
      - 2. Which buildings is she talking about; town clerk, garage?
      - 3. RF reach out to Rebecca to follow up.
      - 4. We have not identified any other grant sources at this time.
      - 5. Mobile home parks and \$4000 to help them have been out focus.
    - iii. If Rebecca can plan to attend our Sept. meeting with updates that would be helpful.
7. Robinson School Heat Pump Water Heaters
  - a. No word back from Joel at MAUSD after reaching out twice
  - b. Andy Young hasn't heard anything back either
8. Weatherization Campaign Plans
  - a. Front Porch Forum & Energy Corner Postings
    - i. RF put in a posting last month and just submitted another on FPF regarding heat pumps
  - b. Button Up Campaign
    - i. RF to follow up to find out more from Robyn
  - c. [EnergyCommittee@Starksboro.org](mailto:EnergyCommittee@Starksboro.org) email
    - i. No one has received an email from this yet
9. AllEarth Solar Trackers
  - a. Rich will talk to Rebecca about these to make sure they are all set up
  - b. One is off a little bit
10. Other business - none
11. Next meetings
  - a. SEC meetings are now on the second Monday of the month
  - b. 9/11/23 Energy Committee

