

Starksboro Energy Committee

5:30 p.m. Monday January 9, 2023

Virtual Teams Meeting

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1. Welcome
  - a. Pete Antos-Ketcham, Jeff Dunham, Richard Faesy
2. Public Comments
  - a. No members of the public attended
3. Approve Minutes from 9/12/22, 10/3/2022, 11/7/22 and 12/5/22 Meetings
  - a. Moved by Pete, Seconded by Jeff.
  - b. Approved
4. Review 100% Renewable Energy Standard Presentation (Jonathan Dowds from REV)
  - a. The presentation from the other month was more informational than a request for action
5. Energy Audits for Town Buildings
  - a. [Act 172](#) Opportunity (up to \$500,000/town for “municipal energy resilience”)
  - b. Rose Wall, Efficiency Vermont site visit was postponed from doing walk-throughs
  - c. RF to send note to Select Board to give them a heads up and some background on this opportunity and that we’ll keep them posted
    - i. Postponed audit while waiting for this
    - ii. Seeking audit and funding opportunities
    - iii. Include weatherization campaign focus
  - d. Rebecca Elder is not the Town Administrator and Zoning Administrator
    - i. She may now be able to take on grants, HR issues, etc.
  - e. Town also hired a new Town Treasurer
  - f. Finally, we have the bandwidth for staff to support projects like this is if grants come up
  - g. Pete will follow up with Maddie at ACRPC over next week on status of this program and next steps
6. Mobile Home Parks Next Steps
  - a. Jeff and Richard discussed at a previous meeting and determined that Pete would best be the key person
  - b. Pete has met with ACCT (Elise Shambacher) recently
  - c. ACCT’s priorities are keeping the basic infrastructure going
    - i. Septic and water
    - ii. Hillside park’s water is a 1.5 mile pipe from Lazy Brook without shutoff valves
    - iii. Lower priority on replacing homes
  - d. Mobile home replacements
    - i. Most residents own their structures
    - ii. Trailers are old but paid for
    - iii. Option of taking on new financing for a new mortgage is unrealistic
  - e. Pete is seeing more people on the edge who don’t have funds for a new trailer

- f. We need to think differently since it's unlikely residents will take on debt
  - g. Cost of food and energy and affordable transportation has been challenging
    - i. Inflation combined with real wages not keeping up with living costs
  - h. Most people are on very low fixed income
  - i. Maybe this takes larger subsidies to cover more of the costs of a home to subsidize 80-100% of the cost of homes to prioritized residents
  - j. ACCT could not choose who gets a new home as the manager; but could be a partner
  - k. Prioritize trailers in terms of age and condition of structures and residents' needs
  - l. CVOEO WAP program may be best option
    - i. WAP has gotten a lot of funding
    - ii. But, need to determine income caps for eligibility
    - iii. \$75,120 for Addison County family of 4
  - m. Dwight Decoster
    - i. WAP director with CVOEO
    - ii. Pete will reach out to get an update on income levels and timeline in order to promote
    - iii. Will share information through food shelf, town meeting, Energy Corner
  - n. Broaden out the conversation to include all residents
7. Weatherization Campaign
- a. Focus on campaign in Starksboro
  - b. Food shelf promotion with handout
  - c. Materials to send home from School
    - i. Amy Johnson
    - ii. Eudora
  - d. Keep thinking about avenues and opportunities
  - e. Trailer parks can be one subset this effort
  - f. Older homes, camps, others
  - g. WRAP financing and other moderate income programs for others above low income
  - h. Put on future agendas for discussion
8. ARPA Proposals
- a. Committee is meeting on 1/11 to review final proposals
  - b. Recommendations likely in February or March to Select Board
  - c. Requests will total more than the available funds
    - i. Late arrivals were significant asks
    - ii. Scoring process
  - d. Energy Committee recommendations:
    - i. Starksboro Public Library Energy and Ventilation Project
    - ii. Pavilion Solar PV
    - iii. Select board makes the ultimate decision
  - e. Three Phase Power Line was never proposed to ARPA
    - i. Jeff talked with GMP and Chris Zeno sugarmaker about electrification
    - ii. Evaporator requires 460 volts 122 amps for producing 100 gallons/hr at 30 Brix
      - 1. 69 kW/hour of operation
      - 2. \$5.50/barrel production costs

- iii. Jeff will continue to research
- 9. Energy Corner
  - a. Article or Posting Idea(s)
    - i. WAP program availability
      - 1. Pete will let me know about information for posting
    - ii. Promotion campaign
  - b. Approach the town about putting on the scrolling information on the front page of the website
    - i. RF ask Rebecca about creating a spot for energy information
  - c. Ideas
    - i. Weatherization campaign
    - ii. Town building energy audit
    - iii. Other funds that can be available for the Town energy
    - iv. Fire safety related to energy situation
- 10. Town Meeting
  - a. Promote WAP program for all town residents
    - i. 1 page handout
  - b. Town building audit and upgrade grant if we know more
  - c. ARPA decisions won't be ready
  - d. Think about town report write up before hand
- 11. Other business
- 12. Next meeting
  - a. 2/6/23 Energy Committee