

Starksboro Energy Committee

Monday October 7, 2024

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm

Virtual Teams Meeting

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Conference ID: 222 356 293#

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1. Welcome
  - a. Megan Nedzinski, Jeff Dunham, Richard Faesy, Rich Warren
2. Public Comments
  - a. None
3. Approve Minutes from 9/9/24
  - a. Megan moved, Jeff seconded
  - b. Approved
4. Starksboro Harvest Festival review
  - a. Not heavily attended, but Jeff and Richard engaged with about a dozen interested residents
  - b. Many were interested in audits, particularly free, if available, so we offered EVT's virtual audit services
  - c. Handed out some literature, gave rest to Pete Antos-Ketcham to make available
  - d. Talked with Herb Olson about the Legislature and Andy Young about Robinson School energy issues
  - e. Good thing we were there
  - f. Talked with Pete about the new navigator program
5. Community Weatherization Plans
  - a. Rebecca and Pete still haven't checked in about Pete's "energy navigator" role but were planning to before Rebecca leaves
  - b. Coordination with CEAC Navigator Project
    - i. Work in progress to schedule a meeting with the Addison County lead on this effort to review status and do some "training"
  - c. Next Steps
    - i. Meet with the Select Board on November 19, per Rebecca's request
    - ii. Support navigator project with \$4000, what to do with it?
      1. Data entry for catching up on ESPM and then engaging monthly to plug in the data
        - a. Intern or someone in town who could be taught how to do it would be a great use for the funds

- b. Initial 5 hours, then 1-2 hours/month
    - 2. Mailings for navigator support
    - 3. Materials for Pete and navigator
  - iii. Hire navigator intern to do the data
  - iv. Bring this idea to the Select Board in Nov.
  - v. RF reach out to Rebecca to catch up
    - 1. ChargePoint data and continuing access
    - 2. SB preparation
- 6. ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager next steps
  - a. Consider hiring an intern with MERP funds
  - b. Work to find a high school student or member of the community
  - c. No other updates, in a holding pattern until we hear from Rebecca or the Town
- 7. Energy Committee Communication with Select Board
  - a. Liaison with Rebecca gone
  - b. Time to provide a report?
    - i. Nov. 19 sometime between 6 and 7 anticipated
    - ii. Starts at 5:30
  - c. Topics
    - i. Accomplishments over past year and plans for next year
    - ii. Rebecca's replacement
    - iii. Navigator and Pete
    - iv. ESPM data issues and suggested intern idea
    - v. Feedback on audits
    - vi. Solar production and usage in town for town-owned solar
      - 1. Should they be changing the allocations?
    - vii. EV charging data
      - 1. Get usage data
      - 2. Rebecca has been the contact
    - viii. 10-15 minutes high level, then there to answer question
- 8. Building Audits and Projects
  - a. Jerusalem Schoolhouse
  - b. Food Shelf
  - c. Reports
    - i. Megan thinks they're really poor, not really worth the wait
    - ii. JS language is inappropriate
    - iii. A little frustration about being off the mark
    - iv. Minimally helpful, but needs to build on them
    - v. Jeff thought they were useful but missed the historical nature of the buildings
    - vi. Negativity about the buildings' usage, missing positivity that they could be used more if they were weatherized and improved
    - vii. RF thinks they are directionally helpful
    - viii. Not enough meat, but ok
    - ix. We see these as stepping stones for moving forward and could be useful if they access grant funds for the town

- x. Need to take some detailed thoughtfulness for moving ahead
  - xi. Look at what Tom Perry had done to the Library as a model for the Schoolhouse, but done sensitively to historical nature of the buildings
  - xii. These reports support our own findings by the SEC, but the JS uses very little energy because no one uses it now, which could change with improvements
  - xiii. Identifies opportunities, directionally correct; weatherization and electrification
  - xiv. Encourage the SB to engage the SEC for our expertise in next steps and developing specs for the buildings
- d. Meetinghouse Preschool
    - i. \$500,000 project
    - ii. Received \$350k, but looking for \$150k
    - iii. Fundraising is under way
  - e. Robinson School Heat Pump Water Heaters
    - i. RF follow up to see who the new facilities manager is and whether an audit and heat pumps are an option, offer to help for Robinson
9. Seeking Other Grants
- a. Starksboro Library HVAC Project
    - i. No updates on possible grants
  - b. Pavilion Solar Roof or other PV
    - i. 13 kW Town Gap
    - ii. 8 kW Library Electrification Needs
    - iii. No updates on possible grants
  - c. MTAP Grant
    - i. It's all given out and we didn't get any
  - d. MERP
    - i. RF to ask Rebecca for who will be follow up with the request for these funds and next steps
    - ii. Offer to help if grant comes in
    - iii. \$275k for JS
    - iv. \$27k for Food Shelf
10. Other business
- a. Town Energy Plan
    - i. Substantial deference was the main issue last time
    - ii. Would be good to understand where they stand with updates
    - iii. Members
      - 1. David Schmidt
      - 2. Dan Nugent
      - 3. Denny Casey, chair
      - 4. Dan Cuzio
      - 5. But the website may not be up to date
    - iv. Jeff will reach out to Denny to ask him whether the PC could use help with any updates
    - v. ACRPC has updated data, maps, etc. that can be used for updating the town's plans

- b. Rich thinks that Teams sucks
  - c. Killowatt meters are at the Library for public use
    - i. Two meters
    - ii. Rich will ask Kathy at the Library to put information on signing them out on Front Porch Forum
11. Next meeting – 11/4/24
- a. Focus on planning for the SB meeting on 11/19