

Starksboro Energy Committee (SEC)

Meeting Notes

5:30 p.m. Monday May 7, 2018

Starksboro Town Clerk's Office

1. Attendees
  - a. Jeff Dunham
  - b. Pete Antos-Ketchum
  - c. Richard Faesy
2. Review the agenda
  - a. Set up future agenda with an "other business" section and "public comments" section
3. Approve February and March minutes
  - a. Jeff moved to accept Feb and March minutes, Pete seconded, unanimously approved
  - b. Pete moved to accept April minutes, Jeff seconded, unanimously approved
4. Review Vermont Open Meeting Law requirements
  - a. <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/media/514454/A-GUIDE-TO-OPEN-MEETINGS.pdf>
  - b. Select Board (Koran Cousino) recommendations:
    - Adopt a resolution specifying your regular meeting schedule.
      - Jeff moved to adopt first Monday of the month 5:30 – 7:30 at Town Offices, Pete seconded, unanimously approved
    - Post your agenda 48 hours in advance of all regular meetings, on the Town website (Rebecca may be able to assist), at the Town Office, and TWO other public locations in town (we use the Jerusalem Store and the Post Office kiosk). Special meetings only require 24 hours notice.
      - SEC would like to send agenda ahead of time to Rebecca and ask if she can help do the posting for the SEC as part of the other town postings. **Richard should follow up to ask Rebecca if she can post on behalf of SEC.**
      - SEC would need to provide agenda at least a week ahead of time. If that doesn't work then Phil or Megan could post in S. Starksboro.
    - Take minutes. Minutes should include people in attendance, motions made and any additional information that would be helpful in remembering/sharing your discussions. These minutes need to be made available for public viewing and copying, no more than five days after your meeting. To accomplish this requirement, draft minutes need to be posted on the website.
      - We will attempt to post draft minutes and also approved minutes.
      - **Richard to clarify with Rebecca how the draft and approved minutes work in terms of posting within 5 days.**
5. Town website, Gazette, information dissemination efforts

- a. Writing a monthly “Energy Corner” piece for the Gazette
  - i. These are due the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month (or the next Monday by noon if the 20<sup>th</sup> falls on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday)
- b. The May issue did have the VT Electric Coop article
- c. Jeff talked to GMP (Kristen Kelly)
  - i. Jeff asked for information to include in the Gazette and any programs aimed at energy efficient we could publish
    - 1. Jeff will follow up to get GMP information article
- d. It would be good to come up with some articles to post seasonally and then push back the other “advertisement-like” articles if there are more timely articles or issues come up
  - i. Committee members should each come up with at least one article for future ideas
  - ii. Spring checklist coming from the Committee would be good
    - 1. Pete will put together a draft and share with the Committee soon.
    - iii. Jeff will seek information from Efficiency Vermont for program information.
    - iv. Richard should look into sugarmaker line extensions for those who use diesel generators (VEC and GMP)
- e. Alternate between home grown and ad-like pieces
- 6. Robinson School project update
  - a. Jeff, Richard and Louis Dupont attended the recent District meeting
    - i. Jeff and Richard asked at the meeting for approval to conduct an energy audit of Robinson
    - ii. The school board chair suggested taking it up with Patrick Reen, superintendent
    - iii. We regretted not raising the educational opportunities as part of the meeting
  - b. District response
    - i. The Superintendent, Patrick Reen, responded with a meeting request for the end of June when Alden is back. It is scheduled for June 26 8:00 am.
    - ii. The Superintendent felt that we had violated the District’s process by having talked to teachers, Efficiency Vermont, the engineer, etc. without his permission. This was confusing because we are concerned citizens and tax payers.
    - iii. While we need to work within their process, this District process has been frustrating, especially based on the promises made by Alden Harwood and Howard Mansfield at the January meeting and in earlier meetings.
    - iv. Edorah (Robinson principal) is supportive of the audit idea
      - 1. Jeff will ask Edorah about potentially incorporating the energy audit in the classroom work fall 2018.
  - c. New Leaf Design audit proposal
    - i. We are good to go with the proposal in hand after we receive District approval
    - ii. We will need to find funds to pay for the part of the audit Efficiency Vermont is not able to cover.
  - d. Engaging Robinson students

- i. We have waited so long at this point, it would be good to wait a few more months in order to incorporate the audit in the school, with the summer months to plan for it
    - ii. Frank Spina is interested in including in his classroom, but is retiring. Ruth Beecher may be interested.
    - iii. Jeff may go talk to teachers after talking with Edorah.
  - e. Next steps
    - i. Jeff will update Tom Perry on the status
    - ii. SEC needs to request approval to do the audit from the District at the 6/26 meeting
    - iii. Ask about whether there are any leftover funds that could be allocated to the audit
- 7. Town Plan Energy Section
  - a. Review and comments back to Planning Commission
    - i. Ensure that the shorter town plan version reference the longer detailed plan
  - b. Jeff reviewed the maps and found some issues about clarity with single- vs. three-phase that he conveyed to Jeff Keeney
  - c. We should be looking at micro grid opportunities for the town
    - i. The select board is interested in a battery for the Town Clerk's office
    - ii. Peter Marsh asked Jeff to look into it
      - 1. Jeff asked GMP but hasn't heard back yet
    - iii. Backup/storage needs
      - 1. Town Clerk office
      - 2. School as the Town's emergency shelter
      - 3. Jerusalem School
      - 4. Town Garage
    - iv. Battery storage would make us more resilient than generators
    - v. Look for opportunities with GMP and ask if they would be willing to explore a pilot project storage system for Starksboro
  - d. District heating
    - i. Biomass based district heating has potential for the village center
    - ii. Town Forest is a great resource
  - e. Microhydro
    - i. Think about Baldwin Pond opportunities
    - ii. The Plan shows 0 as the potential for microhydro, biomass and methane generation
    - iii. Why isn't the Town considered a "primary" biomass siting area, rather than "secondary"?
  - f. The Planning Commission has been meeting recently to get a draft ready for public comment
    - i. Jeff will follow up with Jeff Keeney to find out the schedule
    - ii. Pete will set up both the shorter and longer documents on Google Docs to enable everyone to access and edit/redline/strikeout the documents
- 8. Next meeting

- a. June 4 at 5:30
- b. Agenda
  - i. Approve May minutes
  - ii. Public Comments
  - iii. District meeting plans for June 26 meeting
    - 1. Organize what we would like to cover and say
  - iv. Review next Gazette potential articles
  - v. Exploring alternative options (pick a few to discuss and explore)
    - 1. GMP line upgrades
    - 2. Solar development project with Green Lantern
    - 3. Battery storage opportunities in town buildings
    - 4. Robinson School roof leasing for solar
    - 5. Micro grid projects
    - 6. All Power Labs wood chip generator
    - 7. Dump methane opportunities
    - 8. Pump storage
    - 9. Micro hydro
  - vi. Other business