

Starksboro Energy Committee

5:30 p.m. Monday December 3, 2018

Starksboro Town Clerk's Office

1. Attendees
 - a. Jeff Dunham
 - b. Megan Nedzinski
 - c. Richard Faesy
 - d. Pete Antos-Ketcham
 - e. Guest
 - i. Jan McCleary
2. Approve November 5 minutes
 - a. Jeff moved and Pete seconded
 - b. Approved
3. Public Comments
 - a. Jan McCleary attended
 - i. Commended us on the Energy Corner information and articles in the Gazette
 - ii. Interested in artificial light and light pollution
 1. Millions of children won't be able to see the Milky Way due to light pollution
 - iii. Dark Sky Organization (darksky.org)
 1. 13% of electricity we use is for outdoor lighting
 - a. 35% of this outdoor light is wasted; \$3 billion/year
 2. Dark Rangers curriculum to help kids (ages 11-13) study lighting
 - a. Down shielding and energy use assessment
 - b. Materials for educators
 - c. Globe at Night Project
 - d. Evaluating lighting fixtures in their school and community through Outdoor Lighting Audit (for grades 6-12) using a teacher guide and student workshop
 - e. We may want to work with kids to do
 - iv. Efficiency Vermont weatherization support
 1. Used to run a workshop in the past that trained people how to weatherize
 2. Offered for us to use the Baptist Church for a workshop space if we want to do a workshop
 3. Pete may be interested in following up in setting up our Button Up workshop
4. Megan's trip to Ethiopia
 - a. Megan shared her recent experiences travelling in Africa and some of her energy and cell phone infrastructure observations
5. Working with our new representatives (Elder and Cordes)

- a. They are scheduled to attend our next SEC meeting on January 7
- b. Issues we could discuss:
 - i. Public Meeting Laws
 1. Share our frustration with the constraints these laws present to volunteer committees
 2. Don't focus on this, but do raise it
 - ii. Energy Issues to address:
 1. Focus on weatherization support
 - a. Low income weatherization plus more middle-income homes
 - b. People need help weatherizing their homes that they aren't getting now
 - c. Review the effort being organized by advocates for doubling weatherization funding
 2. Embedded carbon in insulation products
 - a. Efficiency Vermont should consider incentivizing types of insulation to take into account embedded carbon impacts of insulation types
 - b. Foam (bad) vs. cellulose (good)
 - c. Foam ranking from better to worse: EPS, polyisocyanurate, then XPS
 - d. There are some new foams that are better due to blowing agents
 - e. The blowing agents are what make it bad, but there are better blowing agents one can ask for
 - f. Efficiency Vermont should consider different incentives for different types of insulation
 - g. Foam blowing agents are not healthy to breathe and they are bad for greenhouse gasses
 - h. Share this information with our legislators to start to educate on the impacts of foam and make them aware
 3. Robinson School and Mt. Abe district energy issues
 - a. We should be up front and honest about our 18 month frustration and lack of Mt. Abe consolidated district movement on allowing us to address Robinson School's energy issues
 - b. Put this issue at the top lead talking points
 - c. Assemble a timeline of all of the facts and information that has transpired
 - i. Jeff will start the list and timeline of event to share with the legislators for the rest of the committee to fill out
 - ii. Richard will fill in the gaps
 - d. Meanwhile students are missing out on energy education as well
 - e. Asks of the legislators:
 - i. How should we proceed to get the work done?

- ii. What should be our next steps?
 - 4. EV Charging station grant success
 - 5. Building Energy Labeling
 - a. Richard has been working with Senator Bray on building energy labeling
 - b. Mention this work and ask for support time of sale building energy labeling initiatives
 - 6. Offer the Energy Committee as a sounding board for energy issues
 - a. In the context of the carbon tax discussion
 - b. Offer to be the ears of rural Vermonters and energy issues
 - c. Poverty issues and energy injustice issues
- 6. Initiatives
 - a. Current
 - i. Electric Vehicle Charging Grant Application
 - 1. Submitted the grant application
 - 2. Jeff did great work in pulling the application together
 - 3. AOT offered to pay for our 10% grant share, due to the fact that it is being proposed in a park and ride lot
 - 4. Jeff will be meeting with the Planning Commission on 12/6
 - a. Let them know that the Park & Ride is really the only place in town that would qualify for the grant criteria
 - b. The Town Plan mentions placing the charge on municipal land
 - c. Jeff will get the Planning Commission to sign the approval form
 - d. Jeff will track down the ANR Site Form and submit to support the application
 - ii. Town Clerk Battery Backup
 - 1. Jeff talked with GMP about the new Tesla battery system with two batteries instead of one
 - 2. Waiting on timeframe for new program, but probably not until the spring
 - 3. Jeff continues to identify the electric loads in the Town Clerk building with the Sense device
 - iii. Leslie Rublee's House Weatherization
 - 1. Pete has checked in with him and he is happy with the work we did
 - 2. Pete is working to get him into Efficiency Vermont's high energy use program
 - 3. Megan will send Pete utility release form to get the energy bills
 - 4. Leslie was concerned about losing electricity and being without power
 - 5. Pete will work on getting him signed up for a lower electric rate
 - iv. Button Up Campaign
 - 1. Pete would like to do an event in town and work with Paul Markowitz at EVT
 - 2. Looking to schedule a day and do a hands-on event at the Baptist Church

3. Megan has a FLIR IR camera at her office she could provide
4. January timeframe
- v. Robinson School
 1. Richard updated the Committee on recent efforts
 2. Richard, David Brynn and Jim Northrup met with Patrick Reen and the new facilities person, Joel Fitzgerald at the District's request in early November to try and coordinate the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) audit efforts David is leading and the energy issues Richard is pushing
 3. The District promised to send out the contract to hire H.L. Turner to perform the IAQ assessment in early November, but doesn't appear to have done so despite promises and correspondence
 4. Richard reviewed the proposed energy audit RFP and provided a long critique and recommendations with the understanding that we would see a revised RFP before it went out. Apparently, the District had already sent the RFP out when they had told us we still had an opportunity to review it. It is unclear the status of this RFP now.
 5. In the meantime, we learned of some success at the Vergennes Union High School working with a "performance contractor" who provided all of the audit, construction management services, completed the work and paid for it all in anticipation of being paid back through the energy savings. Richard has talked to this contractor who would be interested in offering a similar arrangement for our schools and will work to line him up to talk to the District.
 6. Without any word from the District, it is hard to tell the Robinson School teachers how we might incorporate an energy audit into the curriculum.
 7. It is also too bad to have to use out of state contractors when we had a local energy auditor (Tom Perry) lined up to do this work before the District got involved.
- b. Future Initiatives
 - i. Mobile Home Park Efforts
 1. Collect information to plan for efforts in the future
 - ii. GMP Three Phase Power
 1. No progress at this time
 - iii. Additional Solar PV
 1. No progress at this time for:
 - a. Town Clerk's Office
 - b. Robinson School Roof
 - iv. Solar Development Project on the Old Dump with Green Lantern
 1. No progress at this time
7. Review next Gazette Energy Corner potential article(s)
 - a. Article on EV charging station grant
 - b. Focus on town center and EVs
 - c. Megan will write the article EV
 - d. Pete will add article on Button Up workshop

8. Other business
 - a. None
9. Next meeting
 - a. January 7, 2019
 - b. Legislators are coming first thing

DRAFT