

Starksboro Energy Committee

5:30 p.m. Monday May 6, 2019

Starksboro Town Clerk's Office

1. Attendees
  - a. Jeff Dunham
  - b. Phil Mosenthal
  - c. Pete Antos-Ketcham
  - d. Richard Faesy
  - e. Megan Nedzinski
2. Review/Adjust Agenda
  - a. Focus on recommendation on backup power for the Select Board on 5/21
3. Approve Minutes:
  - a. March 6 joint meeting with Bristol Energy Committee minutes
  - b. April 8 minutes
  - c. Phil moved to accept both sets of minutes, Pete seconded
  - d. Unanimously approved
4. Public Comments
  - a. None
5. Legislative follow up
  - a. Weatherization
    - i. The VT House passed \$.02/gallon surcharge on heating fuels to fund \$4.5 million for low-income weatherization, but the Senate is trying to figure out how to pay for this without charging a tax on oil, which would feed into the fuel dealers' opposition to this funding source
    - ii. We should keep an eye on this and as we contact our legislators, we need to keep reminding them that that weatherization is important
  - b. Energy Labeling
    - i. Montpelier is developing an energy labeling and ordinance to require disclosure at the time of home sale
    - ii. In order to enact the ordinance, a city charter change needs to take place, which requires approval by the Legislature, which is under way
  - c. Code Compliance
    - i. There is a builder registration requirement as part of the Office of Professional Regulation bill currently making its way through the Legislature
      1. Certification and licensure may follow in the future
      2. Enforcement is always the question
  - d. Transportation
    - i. No bills that we know of
  - e. Communicating with our Representatives and Senators on Legislation

- i. Let Caleb and Mari and Chris Bray and Ruth Hardy know that we SEC is here to help if need some guidance and input; send an email to let them know we are here and can help if needed
  - 1. Emphasize that we need to deal with the weatherization issue now for next year
  - 2. We should invite our legislators to some of the firewood deliveries to see some of the poverty here so that they can see where help is needed
    - a. HOPE – Helping Overcome Poverty’s Effects is the group that makes the local connections

6. Initiatives

a. Current

i. Mt. Abe School District

- 1. March 16 meeting follow up
  - a. We did not have an opportunity to present
- 2. Performance Contracting/EEI
  - a. We have a video clip that would still be great to present to the Board, but they pushed us off
- 3. Robinson School Energy Audit status
  - a. This is still pending and should follow District engagement first
- 4. Make the case to the District that they have already approved budget for an audit, and that EEI could come in and provide an audit for free
  - a. EEI would need to have some assurances that the District would follow up before providing a free audit
  - b. Don’t just focus on Robinson so that we don’t lose the opportunity to address the whole District
- 5. Reach back out to Board to ask for 10 minutes at a meeting, followed up with an opportunity for EEI to do an audit
- 6. Try to enlist direction and plan action through the energy committees at the May 15 meeting

ii. Electric Vehicle Charging Grant Application Round 2

- 1. Jeff and Richard redid the application and submitted it last week
- 2. The reviewers earlier in the first round noted that we needed to show need for the charging station.
  - a. Addressing the “gravity well” as a backstop for people who live in the mountains was suggested
  - b. It’s submitted and we are waiting for a response by the end of May
- 3. Pete is also working on getting a grant for installing water and power to the community gardens by the bus stop, so this may help cover trenching and conduit costs, as a contribution towards the project

iii. Town Clerk Office

- 1. The Select Board is looking for power backup for emergency situations for the town
- 2. Options:

- a. Battery Backup (with and without Solar PV)
  - b. Propane-fired gen-set
- 3. GMP has recently offered a new Tesla battery program for \$30/month for 2 batteries
  - a. Even though it may be cheaper to run a propane generator, there may be a reason to have the town model a renewable future
  - b. Building a micro-grid may be the future and we should test it out
  - c. The Tesla Powerwall GMP offer is less money up front
  - d. If we follow on with solar, they could recharge the batteries
  - e. Jeff will follow up with Craig Fierra at GMP to confirm that the Town Office is eligible
    - i. If not available to the Town, suggest going with the propane generator
    - ii. Work on solar PV as the next recommendation to the Select Board
  - f. Jeff will work with Phil to set up the analysis that compares the two systems
  - g. Show up on 5/21 to Select Board
    - i. Richard and Jeff
- 4. SEC Recommendation
  - a. If the \$30/month is available for the Town Clerk's building, we recommend 2 Tesla batteries
  - b. If GMP won't allow the Town Clerk's Office to sign up, we recommend a fossil fuel generator instead as the less expensive option
  - c. After a decision on the generator, suggest that we look into solar, as well
- 5. Solar System
  - a. We would need to have tax liability to take advantage of the current \$.02 adder
    - i. July 1 decreases to \$.01
  - b. 30% tax credit goes down at the end of 2019, drops to 26% in 2020 for one year, then drops to 22%...
  - c. Bring up a solar option only after we address the battery backup system
  - d. RF Approach Norwich Solar to see if they would be interested
  - e. All Earth and Sun Common could have options as well we should pursue
  - f. Pete will research community solar models
- iv. Starksboro Residents' House Weatherization
  - 1. Local Starksboro residents we have been helping are still on the CVOEO weatherization list, but work hasn't happened yet

- v. Button Up Campaign/Workshop
      - 1. No updates
      - 2. Pete is working on it for next year
      - 3. Thinking about moving from Champ to Hero if we step up our efforts
      - 4. Coordinate with Bristol
      - 5. Discuss at our May 15 meeting
    - vi. Coordination with Bristol Energy Committee / 5 Town Coordination
      - 1. May 15 meeting in Starksboro
      - 2. Invite all 5 town energy committees
  - b. Future
    - i. Mobile Home Park Efforts
    - ii. GMP Three Phase Power
    - iii. Additional Solar PV
      - 1. Robinson School Roof
    - iv. Solar Development Project on the Old Dump with Green Lantern
    - v. Other?
- 7. Review next Gazette Energy Corner potential article(s)
  - a. Powerwall article if SB approves
- 8. Other business
  - a. None
- 9. Next meetings
  - a. May 15 joint meeting with Bristol EC
    - i. RF invite the other county ECs as well, talk to Sally to invite
    - ii. Potluck
    - iii. Have it outside if the weather is nice
    - iv. Ask Rebecca to warn the meeting
    - v. Agenda
      - 1. School district
      - 2. Common cause efforts
      - 3. Legislation
      - 4. How to work together in the future
      - 5. Coordinating Button Up Campaign in the future
  - b. June 3
    - i. Button Up Future
- 10. Adjournment at 7:52