

Starksboro Energy Committee

5:30 p.m. Monday February 3, 2019

Starksboro Town Clerk's Office

1. Attendees
  - a. Pete
  - b. Jeff
  - c. Richard
  - d. Phil (on phone)
2. Approve Minutes from December 9, 2019 and January 6, 2020
  - a. Pete moved, Jeff seconded to adopt both sets of minutes
  - b. Unanimously approved
3. Public Comments
4. Town Report
  - a. Richard provided an update for Rebecca on the Energy Committee for the Town Report
  - b. Town meeting day might be a good time to report out
    - i. Brief overview
    - ii. Wood bank project
5. Wood Bank
  - a. There is a lot of wood down on Shaker Hill and Big Hollow Roads that may be used for the wood bank
  - b. There are liability issues with insurance
  - c. Go to Select Board with a proposal to
    - i. Communicate with landowners
    - ii. Collect wood with volunteers
    - iii. Bring to Town Garage
    - iv. Hire someone to go to the old Town Garage to process the wood
  - d. Question is liability, volunteers, coordinating with landowners, getting the wood
  - e. Bring to the Select Board
    - i. Richard and Pete will approach the Select Board (Rebecca)
    - ii. Feb 18 SB meeting possibility
6. Benchmarking Town Buildings Project
  - a. Jeff has made some progress
  - b. Fuel bill releases weren't necessary and Jeff got all of the fuel information from Jackman's and Champlain Valley by calling
  - c. First Response building is served by Hart & Mead (North Star Fuels)
  - d. Preschool
    - i. Pete will follow up with Susan Pare to get fuel release
  - e. Food shelf
    - i. Phil assembled the information
    - ii. Many of the refrigerators were full during Thanksgiving, but many are empty now and just running
    - iii. We should recommend power strips and signage to facilitate shutting some off when not needed

- iv. We aren't sure about Jude Bryant's pottery studio in the future
      - v. We shouldn't count on using kiln in the near future
      - vi. It would be good to help them with lighting that is on all day
      - vii. The controls for heat pumps need to be reviewed and recommendations provided
      - viii. Pete and Richard will meet on 2/4 to review building
    - f. Jeff will get Hart and Mead data for First Response building
    - g. Megan will assemble the data once Pete provides the Meeting House info and First Response
    - h. Other buildings
      - i. Ball Field is \$20/month
      - ii. Food shelf/pottery \$200-\$300/month
        - 1. 13,140 kWh/month
        - 2. Lots of refrigerators and lighting
      - iii. Town Garage uses thousands of gallons propane a year
    - i. Compile total results, come up with a plan and recommendations for priorities
7. Solar PV
  - a. Review Proposals
    - i. Repaneling existing trackers
    - ii. Can do panels incrementally to match load
    - iii. Wouldn't have to create new groups, so administratively less of an issue
    - iv. Revamping the existing infrastructure would lessen potential opposition
    - v. Would be cheaper than other options
    - vi. 4000 watts AC and DC
      - 1. Barre upgraded from 230 to 320 watts/panel
      - 2. We have 200 watt panels now
      - 3. We would get a greater improvement because of the inverters we have
    - vii. Only gets the \$.06 adder for the life of the commitment, 4 more years?
    - viii. 1700 additional kWh/tracker/year
      - 1. 5791 to 7510 kWh/year would be the increase
    - ix. We could add Church and the Meetinghouse
      - 1. Town could pay and then charge for electricity to pay back
    - x. Seems like this approach of re-paneling could be the best way to get town support
    - xi. Jeff will confirm the cost and ask All-Earth to provide cost/benefit detail
  - b. Current tracker production
    - i. 34,000 kwh/year production now
8. Jerusalem Schoolhouse Renovation Project Update
  - a. Select Board decided not to bring it to a vote at this time
    - i. \$800k plus
  - b. Project
    - i. Renovating new foundation
    - ii. New roof
    - iii. New addition with plumbing and kitchen

- iv. New 2-bay firehouse
    - v. Septic system
- 9. Starksboro Residents' House Weatherization Projects
  - a. Both projects did not happen this winter
  - b. Pete recently asked CVOEO for an update
- 10. Button Up Campaign/Workshop Plans for 2020
  - a. No plans
  - b. No one filled out the survey for Efficiency Vermont
  - c. This program doesn't seem to be going anywhere these days
- 11. Legislative Priorities for 2020 session
  - a. Global Warming Solutions Act is being promoted to legislate state climate goals
- 12. Other business
  - a. Mobile Home Parks
    - i. The Town is looking for solutions for taxes not paid on certain lots
    - ii. Addison County Community Trust owns the lots
    - iii. Suggest VERMOD units to the Select Board as an option to consider
  - b. Charge Station Update
    - i. Kegan asked Jeff to coordinate a report with Celine and Rebecca
    - ii. The grant hasn't yet been submitted by the Town to the VW grant office or to VTrans
    - iii. Jeff helped fill out the application for submission
    - iv. To date, the Town has collected about \$45 in charging revenue and had about 30 uses
  - c. Adjourned 7:50
- 13. Next meeting
  - a. Move to March 9 from March 2