

Climate and Energy Committee Meeting  
Jan 26, 2024 4:30 pm

Present: , Liz Weir, Rowland Davis, Linda Wellings, Judy Raven, Chloe Nathan, Karen Baron,  
Richard Donnelly, Art Friedman (by zoom)

Absent: Samara Ashooh

- 1) Call to order
- 2) **Approval of agenda** – event planning
- 3) Approval of minutes - approved
- 4) There were no public comments
- 5) Member updates / comments / event notifications
  - Municipal solar-
    - Rowland and Matt Lawless, and town planner Aaron DeNamur are working with Jeff Forward and Chris Granda of Vermont Independent Energy. A site visit is being set up. Committee members can come.
    - Site may be appropriate for a 500KW array – enough to cover the town electric use. Array would take 5-10 acres. The site is 20 acres, which will help with placement, easements, sight lines, etc.
    - Rough cost estimate for project is \$1 million, with the possibility of 30% in tax credits. The array would offset the electric use in town, whose annual electric bill is approximately \$250K.
    - Vendors may not require up front money. Vermont Independent Energy could serve in the role of "uninterested third-party advisor" to help scope the project and prepare an RFP.
    - Does GMP have capacity/restrictions for adding more solar to the grid?
    - Could we get the select board to set this up so once it's paid off the resulting savings go into a revolving energy loan fund like South Burlington's?
    - Chloe asks about the history of the land and other possible uses.
      - There could be housing, which we need badly. There would still be land left for this.
      - Rowland will send a map image of the property (Sent on 1/27)
  - WasteWater Treatment – Jeff Forward of Vermont Independent Energy is also working with Richmond on Waste Water – they brought in Pat Haller of Efficiency VT for help, and recommend we do the same. Rowland has asked Matt to have our engineer talk to Pat Haller.
  - Marshall Woods project at Shelburne Farms – Our committee is interested in donating money from our budget to the project. Aaron DeNamur will see if the town can donate additional funds.
    - Linda talked to people on the farms, they're willing to come and talk to our committee
    - A contact for Meach Cove is Chris Davis

- Shelburne Farms use of electric mowers: Wally Allen is willing to host us to look at their equipment. Darwin Norris, Maintenance Supervisor is doubtful that this will work for the town due to the expense. Chloe suggested that the committee help with the cost. Chloe will set up a meeting with Wally, Matt Lawless, Kyle Wagner- Town Maintenance Technician, Darwin, and Judy Raven.
  - Solar Ordinance: As discussed at our last meeting, our ordinance is outdated, having been written in 2016, and not solar-friendly.
    - The Champlain Housing Trust's Harbor Place solar array project is on the select board agenda for next week.
    - Judy, and maybe Linda, will go to provide our support for the project and ask that they let us write an updated ordinance.
    - Judy was unable to find good language for a new ordinance in neighboring towns. Art's law firm does this kind of work and he'll look for examples. The new zoning regulations will have screening language – Rowland will look that up.
  - The legislature's Climate Solutions Caucus asks us to support H298 – Judy will forward the information to committee members so we can all email our legislators.
  - Select board – Rowland will ask for an agenda slot to advise them on our activities.
  - Our \$2500 from the grant for the heat pump event has been delivered to the town.
  - Our new email address – for use with the benchmarking site is coming soon. In the meantime, we have an unofficial [ShelburneCEC@gmail.com](mailto:ShelburneCEC@gmail.com), for the survey.
- 6) Heat pump event
- Survey: is live. We have 42 responses so far.
  - Event planning – tasks & teams
    - Date, Time, Speaker
      - Richard reached out to Efficiency Vermont and Mark Stephensen of VT Energy Contracting. Both can come. Mark may be able to bring an outside condensing unit to display.
      - We spent time on the date/time. Since the meeting, this is coalescing around Wed, March 27. The meeting will last 2 hours.
      - We will meet in the two town office meeting rooms
    - Program Development – Rowland, Art and Judy
      - First 1/2 hour – pizza, conversation, paper on walls for people to write questions
      - Goal is an event that's lively, interesting and move along at a good pace. People to be active and involved.
      - Include testimonials and lessons learned from Heat Pump owners
      - Since the meeting Richard has sent a proposed outline to the committee.
      - Topics we discussed including:
        - a. Efficiency VT:
          - Overview – why, where they are useful.
          - Baseline types of technology and how it works;
        - b. Mark Stephensen
          - if your house looks like this - ...
          - Things to consider if building or remodeling
          - What to ask your contractor

- c. Testimonials
  - o 2-3
  - o Here's what I learned, mistakes I made
  - o Other questions to ask your contractor
- d. Heat pump maintenance
- e. How do you know if its working well?
- f. List of resources for attendees to take home – contractors, rebates, etc.
  - Richard sent the committee an email of a proposed agenda on 1/27.
- o Outreach: Liz, Karen, Richard – will meet by zoom at 4:30 on 1/31
  - Places to advertise
    - a. Town meeting and Australian voting
    - b. VNRC
    - c. Home Owners associations – Rowland will try to get a list.
    - d. Front Porch Forum
    - e. Shelburne News – Richard will write an article; how about a flyer insert?
    - f. GMP – insert into bills?
    - g. Shelburne Community school/ CVU in newsletter – there is a CVU climate club – could they make a flyer? Chloe can help with this
    - h. Poster
- o Refreshments: Linda, Liz
  - Pizza for 100
  - Drinks
  - Chloe will bring a bucket for food scraps for her chickens
- o Childcare committee: Chloe-
  - By request
  - In the gym
  - Insurance? – talk to Betsy, and Matt
- o Other logistics
  - Raffle – we discussed 4 - \$250 credits for installation, or one \$1,000 (not available to committee members). No decision was reached.
  - Sign in
    - a. Need a sheet/tickets for the drawing
    - b. Name and email capture for our list serv; would you like to receive periodic updates?
  - Seating and Layout
  - AV Needs
  - Have Zoom, but we'd rather people come.

7) Next Meetings:

- Feb 9
- March 8

8) Adjourn