

Thursday, July 20, 2023

MINUTES – SHELBURNE CLIMATE AND ENERGY COMMITTEE (CEC)

The CEC held its first public meeting on Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Pearson Library.

Attendees

Committee Members in Attendance:
Rowland Davis (Chair). (RD)
Judy Raven. (JR)
Art Friedman. (AF)

Approximately 15 persons attended in person and 2 remotely by Zoom link.

Panel Discussion

RD provided background information regarding formation of the CEC and a description of its remit and purposes.

RD further explained that the CEC is actively looking for additional members. While the CEC must consist of a minimum of 5 members, more would be welcome to facilitate the important work of the committee. RD explained that a key objective of the CEC is to achieve practical and tangible results.

RD distributed an excerpt from the Town Plan's Energy Chapter and explained that the CEC's goals include preparation of an action plan to prioritize and implement the Town Plan's energy chapter goals.

JR provided background information regarding prior informal committee work in 2019 to draft the Town's Plan's current energy chapter. JR further provided examples of likely CEC projects, including seeking available grants and coordinating with the annual Window Dressers window insulation project, likely in October.

AF explained that the CEC intends to coordinate with other Town Committees, including the Planning Commission, the Bicycle & Pedestrian Paths Committee and the Natural Resources Conservation Committee. AF further explained that the CEC intends to coordinate with other communities throughout the state, facilitated through the Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network (VECAN).

AF explained that the next CEC public meeting will be on July 31 as the CEC meets with PlaceSense, the City's land use and zoning reform consultant.

Audience Discussion

Members from the audience presented questions and comments regarding the amount of time commitment required for membership on the committee.

Others audience members posed questions regarding the status and reporting chain for the CEC.

Other audience members commented regarding the immediate need to devote more resources towards climate resiliency, including measures to mitigate potential flooding from the LaPlatte River.

Other audience members posed the question of whether the Town Plan mandates a specific CO2 reduction standard. While the Town Plan provides no such specific mandates, State Law imposes objective standards. The CEC's work will encompass efforts to meet those statewide objective standards.