

Climate and Energy Committee Meeting
August 17, 2023 12:30 pm

Present: Rowland Davis, Judy Raven, Arthur Friedman, Liz Weir, Samara Ashooh, Chloe Nathan, and Karen Baron

- 1) Call to order
 - The meeting was transcribed, and summarized by Otter AI software.
 - There were no Zoom participants.
- 2) The agenda was approved without comments or changes.
- 3) There were no public comments.
- 4) Organizational matters
 - A. Personal introductions – Committee members introduced themselves, describing their interest in joining the committee, their personal background and their ties to Shelburne.
 - B. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair
 1. Art Friedman nominated Rowland Davis for Chair. Judy Raven seconded. The vote was unanimous.
 2. Rowland Davis nominated Judy Raven for Vice-Chair. Art Friedman seconded. The vote was unanimous.
 3. Karen Baron volunteered to serve as secretary. Art Friedman seconded. No vote was taken.
 - C. Regular meeting date and time was decided. Meetings will be at 4:30- pm on the 4th Friday of the month. Rowland will reserve a meeting room for the committee.
 - D. Communication Procedures
 - The committee is advisory – it advises the town and selectboard on climate and energy issues.
 - A goal is to move climate to the forefront of their attention.
 - Luce Hillman of the selectboard is our liaison. She will be engaged with our work and present at meetings as she is able.
 - We are an official government entity, and as such, follow must follow open meeting rules. Specifically,
 - Meetings are open to the public. Anyone can attend.
 - Agendas and minutes are posted on town website.
 - Anytime a quorum (majority) of the members discusses committee issues or business, it is considered a meeting. Thus, with our current 7-member committee, if any 4 of us work together to do something, it is a meeting and will be posted. Similarly, projects where 4 or more of us are actively working also meet this threshold and meeting requirements.
 - Regarding email,
 1. Sharing information is fine, project management steps are fine, but if we are trying to reach a decision, it is public. Take care in responding to group emails and avoid calling for actual decisions.
 2. Much of our work will likely be done in project subgroups of 2 or 3 – so that emails can be exchanged freely.

- E. Shared folders for resources are in Google Drive. Everyone should have access. Rowland is working on its structure to make sure it's usable. Rowland is working on a resource page to contain links that bring you to other pages of note. Send relevant links to Rowland or add them yourself.
 - F. Project sub-teams: A basic way of working is in teams of 2-3. This collaboration allows people to have encouragement and nudges to move forward when needed and to not feel isolated.
 - G. Expert support team
 - o Shelburne has citizens with climate and energy expertise. Rowland and Judy Raven have a list of people they've interacted with in the past. Rowland plans to write to them on behalf of committee asking if they would be willing to be experts on hand when we need info, etc.
 - o The question arose as to whether they had to be Shelburne residents. No, they do not.
- 5) Additional member search
- A. High school student – Samara Ashooh is interested in joining the committee. She attended the meeting and is awaiting select board approval.
 - B. Others
 - o We're not yet maxed-out and more members would be welcome.
 - o One way to attract members will be to talk about our projects, making people aware of what we're doing, and promoting their involvement.
- 6) Review of Town Plan "Goals" & "Actions"
- These are items officially "blessed" – In Town Plan.
 - The document is in Google drive.
 - 2027 is the next re-write. We'll be part of that process.
- 7) Initial brainstorm on projects
- A. Climate Action Plan: Rowland will take the lead on this
 - o Objective: Write the climate action plan for selectboard approval including action steps, designated teams for competing the steps and identified monitoring methods.
 - o First step is prioritizing the items in the Town Plan
 - Some items have already begun, for example the town building enhancement project.
 - Rowland is setting up a spreadsheet for committee input on prioritizing the items. He's developing a scoring algorithm that will consider both impact and effort required.
 - o Feedback from the Shelburne Forward community discussions should be factored in.
 - o Committee members should add items they feel are missing from the list.
 - B. MERP grants– Municipal Energy Resiliency Program – a state-level program funneling federal money to VT municipalities. There are 3 grant programs:
 - o \$4000 capacity mini grants. We applied and got the money. It is intended for community outreach.

- Free energy assessments for up to 5 municipal buildings. We are in the process of applying. The town has 7 or 8 buildings, depending on what's included. The 5 being included in the grant application are the town office, library & old town hall, fire station, highway department office building, and Shelburne Rescue.
 - Money for implementing assessment recommendations – we will apply after the energy assessments. Note: The selectboard has already earmarked \$200,000 of Shelburne's \$2.2 million ARPA funds for municipal building energy improvements. This money needs to be committed by 2025, and spent by 2028 (or so...)
- C. Window Dressers – Judy is leading this project. The program works with an organization in Maine to build custom window inserts to help with leaky windows. There are funds to subsidize the cost as needed. Recipients help build the inserts.
- The program is run by a group from Charlotte. We helped them last year, and plan to work with them again this year.
 - Dates for the assembly work should be available soon.
 - We are currently unsure how many Shelburne residents can be served. Judy is working on getting this information.
 - Judy would like help with publicizing – PPF, flyers, responding to people who ask, helping to measure., etc.
 - Liz and Karen offered to help.
- D. Other Ideas
- The Police Dept is interested in an electric police truck . We can help with the analysis of the total cost of ownership. Rowland will work on this.
 - Chloe suggested working on electric school buses.
 1. Can direct pay IRA funds be used for this?
 2. There is a need for several new buses.
 3. School buses are a school board issue, not a select board issue.
 4. The committee encouraged Chloe to reach out to them, letting them know she's on the committee and is interested in the issue.
- 8) Input to Town Manger re capital planning - Matt Lawless was not available. The discussion was tabled.
- 9) The meeting was adjourned at 1:49. Our next meeting will be at 4:30 on Friday, September 22, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Baron