

Climate and Energy Committee Meeting  
October 13, 2023 4:30 pm

Present:

- In Person: Rowland Davis, Judy Raven, Arthur Friedman, Karen Baron, Liz Weir, and Linda Wellings. Call in: Chloe Nathan
- We were unable to obtain an internet connection, so Zoom was not available.

1) Call to order

Welcome to Linda who has been appointed by the board; Samara is waiting for select board approval.

2) Approval of agenda

For future agendas, Judy recommends adding a "Report Back" section and a short time for announcements. Karen will highlight "to dos" in the minutes for reference.

3) Approval of minutes – minutes approved

4) Public comments – NA

5) Announcements –

Here are several upcoming events. Check email from Rowland

- Renewable energy conference 10/19/23
- VPIRG: Make big oil pay event: 10/17/23
- Youth environment Summit 10/27/23

6) Updates

- MERP – On the 2 municipal building energy audits:
  - Rowland is collecting required monthly data for the past 5 years to submit.
  - The assessment is expected to be done in the next few weeks.
- Window Dressers:
  - Liz and Judy measured windows for 5 Shelburne customers- totaling approximately 18 windows. All 5 customers can afford to pay for their windows.
  - Next year we'll start earlier with a broader reach out to get more buildings done.

7) VCRD grant opportunity for near-term project

- Background:
  - The grant deadline is Nov 6-7; Once approved, the money is awarded quickly
  - Last year we received \$1200 to help families pay for window inserts. We were unable logistically to find the families this year. We have asked for an extension to use the money this coming year. Maybe roll it into this year's grant.
- 3 Possible project ideas for grant
  - A. **Weatherization** – with special focus for low income families
    - Hold workshop(s) on how to save money on heating costs this winter
      - a. Include DIY weatherization demonstrations
      - b. Perhaps hire people to go into homes and do weatherstripping for people
      - c. Provide free weatherization materials. Charlotte did a similar program last year. Judy has reached out for information and lessons-learned

- d. Have people from Efficiency VT and Champlain Valley OEO on hand to talk about their programs
  - Outreach
    - a. Through the food shelf –
      - The food shelf has been getting inquiries on weatherization from people living in manufactured homes who are worried about this winter (communicated by Pam Brangan)
      - Judy has reached out to Dana Valentine about the need and what resources are available.
    - b. Reach out to residents of mobile home parks
      - Challenge – to get the appropriate people to attend
      - Suggested people to approach include: Sean Moran – Lakeview/Penny Lane, Tracy Beaudin – Shelburnewood; and ??—Spear/Brentwood/Nashville
      - Efficiency Vermont has resources for manufactured homes. For people meeting income guidelines, they will do free in-home consultations and weatherization.
      - The key is to get buy-in from 1 or 2 people – then others may follow.
      - Rowland suggests we watch the Efficiency VT webinar - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKe3YDtErIE>
    - c. Money from grant would be used to
      - purchase weatherization materials,
      - printing flyers etc.
      - refreshments for workshops.
      - Hire people to do weatherization
      - We don't think experts who attend will need to be paid.
    - d. Results: Collect data – did they use it? Did it work?
- B. **Lawn maintenance** – fund replacement of some gasoline equipment with electric.
  - a. Good resource is Steven Wisbaum of Champlain compost in Charlotte
  - b. Shelburne Cemetery is now using electric mowers – talk to Linda Reill
  - c. Does Burlington have an ordinance about electric mowers?
  - d. Need buy-in from maintenance workers
    - What is the equipment replacement schedule?
    - What are the obstacles - Identify them and ways to overcome them – eg: Different equipment uses different charges.
- C. **Add additional EV Chargers** (level 3 – fast chargers). Possible sites discussed include
  - a. Shelburne market
  - b. Library expansion
  - c. Town Hall charger for town staff – this is in the works.

- II. Other ideas we decided not to pursue for this grant:
  - A. Public outreach to raising awareness of impact of lawn height
    - e. "Raising the blade" a little has a huge impact. Liz has the information.
    - f. The town mowers and Shelburne Farms are already involved
    - g. Get buy-in from home owner associations and private citizens
    - d. Make it "unpatriotic" to not raise the blade.
    - e. We decided this should be a spring initiative
  - B. Solar lighting for the tennis courts
    - a. Would be a great highly-visible public demonstration project
    - b. Decided that rather than VCRD grant, consider use of ARPA funds for this project
  - C. Anaerobic digester – Generate electricity from town food scraps
    - a. An intriguing idea.
    - b. We need more info. Liz will research the concept.
  - D. Other ideas from last year's grant recipients:
    - a. Free energy audits for local businesses – Stowe
    - b. Money for an electric police car - Richmond

8) Continued brainstorming on projects & workgroup structure

- We didn't get to this agenda item. We'll work by email on it.
- Rowland grouped our "On the Board" items into 4 areas, – outreach; town; efficiency and electrification; and other
- We could rank them various ways –
  - Impact
  - Do-ability
  - Items that help the town and/or residents save energy and money
  - Visibility
- Rowland will send access to white board, and we can look it over.

9) Other business / next meeting agenda (10 min)

- Based on research, decide on VCRD grant
- Projects and workgroup structure

10) Adjourn

Follow up items:

- Judy – Continue talking to Charlotte about their weatherization project and Dana Valentine about food shelf customer weatherization project
- Rowland – continue to sort out what state-wide weatherization programs are available; check in with Matt on EV expansion cost estimates; send out the white board
- Chloe - talk to Steve Wisbaum about electric lawn equipment

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Baron