

Climate and Energy Committee Meeting
October 27, 2023 4:30 pm

Present:

- Committee Members: Rowland Davis, Judy Raven, Arthur Friedman, Karen Baron, Linda Wellings, Liz Weir (Absent: Samara Ashooh)
 - Community Member: Richard Donnelly
- 1) Call to order
 - a. We will change our monthly meetings to the 2nd Friday of the month.
 - b. At Tuesday's (10/25) board meeting, Samara was officially elected, congratulations.
 - c. Richard Donnelly is interested in joining the committee. He has a deep background in energy innovation and planning and is currently working for VGS. His mindset is that there is always a path, and the goal is to help people figure out their path and help them on their journey.
 - 2) The agenda was approved.
 - 3) The minutes of 10/13 were approved as written.
 - 4) There were no public comments.
 - 5) Member updates / comments / event notifications:
 - a. Barre Youth Energy Summit: Rowland attended. 16 middle school students from Shelburne were part of the 400 students who attended.
 - b. VPIRG and VNRC Make Big Oil Pay Campaign: Linda, Judy, Art and Rowland attended. Sadly, there were not many lay people there – mostly VPIRG and lawmakers. So we need to be aware, it's hard to get people to get out to a meeting.
 - c. Municipal solar informal REV2023 (Renewable Energy VT) event – had a number of developers who each spoke a little – not so much educational, but introducing the players. Rowland was intrigued, but needs to learn much more. He collected some names and contacts. The REV conference is an annual 1-1/2 day conference each fall. There is a cost to attend, but we may want to consider sending some members next year.
 - d. MERP Assessment – our data submission is complete. Scheduling should happen in next 2-3 weeks.
 - e. Blue Spruce Farm – Liz sent them an email for information about their biodigester.
 - f. Electric Mowers – Chloe's received great information from Steve Wisbaum. Next step is to work with the town manager.
 - 6) Projects for VCRD grant application
 - a. Weatherization Fair idea – Rowland and Judy reached out to Efficiency VT and the Food Shelf. Following those discussions they feel we should table this idea for the immediate grant project due to its complexity.Other ideas:
 - b. Increase heat pump penetration in the town:
 1. Heat pump conversion is happening. We can help by building enthusiasm.
 2. Have one or more informational workshops with homeowners who've made the switch telling their story, providers with expertise, installers, etc.

3. Survey people through FPF – if you have a heat pump – are you happy with it, how did it work when it got cold?
 4. Use of grant money: Food, Printing, Professional marketing, Incentive for attending (raffle – must be present to win – electric mower, rebate if you convert?)
 5. Rowland will write up the grant: Titled something like Heat Pumps - Unbiased Myth Busting
- c. Set up a tag-along project - after converting to heat pumps, encourage homeowners to donate their no-longer-needed late model air conditioners to renters living in trailers.
1. Judy met with food shelf folks. Nashville park units are rentals and people in them have huge heating and cooling bills.
 2. When people get their donated ACs, offer weatherization.
 3. The donated ACs would need to be vetted to make sure they are energy efficient.
 4. It could be a demonstration project
 5. We'd need to get heat pump installers on board
 6. Loop in the park owner. There will be IRA upfront rebate money – up to 8K for landlords that's not available yet. VGS could be a conduit to help.
 7. More research is needed
- 7) Continued brainstorming on projects & workgroup structure
Review current list of ideas, prioritize, assign work groups, consider additions
Priority Color coding: **Red – Highest**; **Green – High**; **Blue – Moderate**; **Black – unassigned...**
- a. Municipal
1. **MERP Assessment** – is happening
 2. **Stretch Code and building inspector**
 - a. Regular and stretch codes are both statewide codes. Across the state it's an issue that the codes are not being enforced.
 - b. Assigned to Art
 - c. Research what other towns have done.
 - d. Start with stretch code. Overtime get building inspector to inspect those buildings.
 - e. Procedurally, start with Town Manager and our Board liaison
 3. **Zoning Bylaws** – Rowland is paying attention. The next time he writes up something the whole committee will sign it. He's encouraging the zoning committee to look at what other municipalities are doing.
 4. **EV Police truck** – Rowland will talk to Matt about where this is at. They'd like our support and a TCO analysis.
 5. **Elect lawn maintenance** – Chloe will talk to Matt about what's in the budget
 6. Park and Ride Solar Canopy
 7. Assessment of buildings – what is the cost? \$6500 per 25,000 sqft building. We decided to wait and see how the current assessments go.
 8. EV Charging station – workforce charging grant is going.
 - a. Level 2 charger – takes 8 hrs to full charge. Adding another charger at the library would cost \$8 or 9K. Analysis shows it's being well used.
 - b. Level 3 Charger is much faster – used by visitors. Shelburne Museum? Shelburne Falls? This is probably not a town expense – perhaps a GMP investment?

- c. For homeowners, if you don't need to upgrade your electric panel, GMP will install a charger for \$300.
 - b. Community outreach/Education
 - 1. Regular Media Exposure
 - a. Karen and Linda
 - b. Discussion of FPF posts by the committee or individuals. Should we have paid posts? TBD
 - 2. Heat pump event – see grant discussion above
 - 3. Website
 - a. Assigned to Rowland
 - 4. Energy Fair 2024 –
 - a. Rowland spoke with SoBu organizers. It was a lot of work. We need specific, well-defined objectives. Perhaps not 2024. Perhaps collaborate with SB on their fair.
 - 5. Connect with schools
 - a. Samara, Linda, Chloe
 - b. Samara's been invited to attend a conference in Portland OR in Nov – she'll list our committee on her credentials
 - c. Hack club – could they become involved?
 - d. Write up by the Shelburne Middle school kids going to the Youth Summit. Chloe will follow up. Rowland will send her contact information.
 - c. Efficiency/Electrification
 - 1. Heat Pumps – see grant discussion above. Also added to community outreach
 - 2. Weatherization project – complicated. You can't just give people tape, they have to install it. Goal is to maximize points of contact with client to get weatherization installed.
 - 3. Window dressers 2024
 - 4. Community Energy dashboard
 - d. Transportation – items (EV Charging station and park and Ride) discussed in Municipal category
 - e. Other
 - 1. Connect with Shelburne Farms and Meach Cove – Lynn Wolf is a good contact at Meach Farm; Megan Camp at Shelburne Farms
 - 2. Raise the Blade
 - a. What are the climate implications – Don't mow as often.
 - 3. Research Community Solar – Rowland will continue to research
 - 4. Research agriculture opportunities
 - 5. Research Bio Digester
- 8) Other business / next meeting agenda (10 min)
Next meeting the 10th of November
- 9) Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Baron