

Climate and Energy Committee Meeting
November 10, 2023 4:30 pm

Present: Rowland Davis, Judy Raven, Arthur Friedman, Karen Baron, Linda Wellings, Liz Weir.

Absent: Samara Ashooh, Chloe Nathan.

Community Member: Richard Donnelly, Peter Cooper, Diane Davis.

1) Call to order

- Richard Donnelly's application to serve on the committee is on the select board's agenda for next Tuesday
- Peter Cooper, a Wake Robin resident, and Dianne Davis of Acorn Lane joined the meeting by Zoom

2) Approval of agenda - approved

3) Approval of minutes - approved

4) Public comments - none

5) Member updates / comments / event notifications

- Second EV post at the library: Matt Lawless confirmed with an electrician that it's an easy set up to add a second charging post at the library. Is there an EV charging station sign on Rt7? Liz will take a look.
- Legislative meeting on Climate: Judy spoke with representative Jessica Brumsted about having one of her legislator meetings focus solely on climate. Judy is working on logistics.
- Electric farm equipment: Linda spoke with Wally of Shelburne Farms about their equipment
- Window dressers: Karen, Liz, Rowland and Judy worked at the event. The project completed approximately 170 frames. The Grange was not a good space for the assembly. Judy is looking into the logistics for next year. She plans to assess the scope of the project before we commit to hosting.
- Efficiency VT weatherizing workshop tonight in Waterbury: Rowland will ask them for advice for our workshop.
- Heat pumps 101 webinar: Liz, Karen and Judy went and were favorably impressed. They thought the section on what you need to know before speaking to a contractor to be especially useful.
- Education committee: Linda and Karen sent the group their proposal. The committee liked the content, but feel that they should rearrange the order of the paragraphs, and add an article about the electric battery fire risk.
- Energy Action Network has an upcoming webinar on their 2023 progress report on Nov. 20 at noon.
- Clean Heat Standard (CHS) webinar: Karen, Linda, Judy attended. The concept of the standard and its broad approach were approved by the legislature in the last session. The Public Utility Commission is now working on the details. It requires thermal fuel vendors in VT to reduce their green house gas emissions over time in a

way that's equitable for all Vermonters. Richard has good background on the CHS from his work at VGS. Essentially it's electrification.

- AC Swap: Judy met with efficiency Vermont, and will be meeting with the food shelf next week. The idea probably won't work.
- Mobile home energy assistance: CVOEO supports home owners and landlords, but the waiting list is very long, and income based – so your place on the list will slide if someone with less income joins. There are other resources such as efficiency VT – you don't have to go through CVOEO, but they require that the owner to be motivated and proactive. It's all about education and engagement – boots on the ground. We don't have the capacity.
- Our Committee is very committed! – Look at all the things we've done in the past 2 weeks.

6) Stretch code: Art researched the current state of building codes in the state.

- There are 2 sets of building standards in VT –baseline and stretch. A statewide committee looking at the 2 standards found that there is only a 54% compliance with the baseline codes. Their draft report, due to be released in December, recommends developing energy codes to be incorporated into the building codes and creating an agency with enforcement jurisdiction to clarify administrative questions and ambiguities. Enforcement may be assigned to the fire marshals.
- Rather than our recommending that the select board adopt the stretch code, Art suggested that we support the legislative approval of the state report, and that if statewide approval becomes a lengthy process that we push for an interim solution. We may send a letter to our legislators. Art will continue to monitor the situation.

7) EV chargers in multi-unit developments as part of Shelburne's plan: Stretch code requires EV-ready for any act 250 development or multi-unit developments . The Shelburne Planning Committee minutes notes that the idea was raised, but the consultant talked about fire risk, and the issue was dropped. Rowland is following up on what South Burlington is doing. EV fires are rare, but bad. Mitigation includes installing level 2 chargers outside, not in underground parking. Rowland will draft a letter that we can all sign. This may happen before our next meeting.

8) Review of project list - see

<https://jamboard.google.com/d/1ebm70G1IP5xxTOL8CV0Zyj38TZ6MKBJa6TyevZ0d9Iq/viewer>

- Committee members should review their assignments
- Community energy dashboard: Richard suggested that we benchmark town assets including office buildings, schools and vehicles through energy star standards. Building scores are based on the building classification, square footage, energy input (3 years of fuel usage), and hours of occupation. Once you have the score you can produce a report of the town's benchmark-able buildings that will allow us to prioritize where work should be done.
- Heat pumps –
 - What is the status of VT's IRA rebates? Everyone can take tax credits, however low/moderate income folks don't have the tax liability to apply the credit to. The goal is to create an up-front rebate for them. But the federal

legislation assigned the process of qualifying people onto the states – each state has to work out their own qualifying requirements that then need to satisfy the federal guidelines. Richard is going to a meeting with public service depts, to see how VGS can be involved.

- We discussed various ways to get the needed income data: including working with state's credit unions, ways the data might be accessed through tax records, and developing a regional solution rather than just VT. Richard will bring them to his meeting.

9) Develop workplan for our heat pump project

- a. Timing – March but avoid college vacations. People will still be needing heat, but also looking forward to the need for summer cooling.
- b. Call it a workshop
- c. Survey – mid to late January – See if there was a workshop – when would you come.
 - Survey design, Liz, Art, Karen
 - Keep it brief
 - Offer an incentive – enter your name in a raffle
 - What is the goal?
 - Profile on how Shelburners are heating /cooling their homes. Benchmark.
 - How satisfied are you? Energy burden? Also cooling. Those with heat pumps, feedback on satisfaction – how did it work on cold days, did you save money?
 - Advertisement for the group – move Shelburne in the right direction on climate issues and we need your help.
 - Start pitching the workshop
 - Are you willing to talk to us in more detail, or share your experiences at the workshop?
 - Collect emails – should we set up a list serv?
 - Distribution: Shelburne news, drop boxes, printed forms in various locations, QR code/link
- d. Community event
 - Use slide deck from Heat pumps 101 – and try to get presenter.
 - To get people Heat Pumps and Pizza – how to cut your carbon by 50% Wood-fired (carbon free) pizza. Fiddlehead beer? Shelburne Vineyards?

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

- Add the Town's Climate Action Plan to our project list. We need to write a formal plan and work towards its adoption. The creation of the committee was a start. Our projects and actions will carry us for a while, but we need concrete objectives and future plans. Rowland and Judy are assigned. Richard suggests that we talk to someone from a town that has a plan – perhaps South Burlington.
- Next meeting Dec 8 – agenda topics:
 - i. Rowland will bring in Ann Janda to meet the group – Regional planning group. Rowland will invite her.
 - ii. Review EV/Planning Committee letter

11) Adjourn