

Commission. **All committee members** are asked to review the draft Enhanced Energy Plan and send comments to Dorian. **Will be done by July.**

ACTION ITEM: **David** did a post, and will continue putting out list-serv posting promoting on new resources and financial assistance for electric vehicle purchases.

ACTION ITEM: **Doc** will check back with Geoff Martin for an update on building code review and enforcement procedures in Woodstock.

ACTION ITEM: **Dorian** will follow-up with Meg Teachout about the energy audit that was evidently previously done for the school.

ACTION ITEM: **Jim** will follow town clerk Lisa Bragg's specified formats and timing for posting of agendas, draft minutes, and approved minutes. **Done.**

ACTION ITEM: **Susan** will send us all a model letter and summary of points for letter writers advocating priorities for Governor Scott's spending on climate resilience and response. **Sent this evening: include in Minutes and add to town website**

ACTION ITEM: Dorian would like to see the evaluated criteria in the town "report cards" include land use aspects as well (forestry and agriculture), and she will mention this to Tory Littlefield at TRORC.

5.

June 10th, 1 pm, meeting at the Town Office: Green Mountain Power site visit: **David** reported that the Elizabeth Mine CEO is coming from NYC for this visit, along with **Josh** and **Sarah** from GMP. David will also invite the Selectboard. The aim of this meeting to explore the possibility of making Strafford a partner community for micro-grid and resiliency pilot programs, which may involve a battery bank, perhaps at the Mine site. The beneficiaries of this will be those on the three-phase power line, which goes along Mine Road and over Route 132 to Sharon. Our town has different conditions: sub-standard transmission lines in some parts and a large generating PV installation.

6.

July 3rd booth/table, education and outreach and coordinating with Climate Action Group (SCA): **Susan**

a) The SCA would like have its table next to SECC's electric equipment demo. They are planning to have some handouts (regarding climate change and what you can do), examples of plastic-free eco-friendly household products (see the recent blog to get an idea) with a list of sources, and a basket of these items for a raffle. The SCA is thinking that maybe they would "require" people to visit the SECC demo to validate their raffle tickets, so they would be exposed to info about electric devices (and WindowDressers, too?) in addition to the information they will have at the SCA table. **ACTION ITEM:** Dorian will confirm our two tables with the PTA organizers (Meg Teachout & Co.).

— **David** will make a flyer about the e-bike loaning program (**August 8 to 17**), and another with information about the new tax credits and rebates for e-vehicles.

— **Doc** would like to have a sign up for the WindowDressers volunteers, and he'll provide a model.

— **Susan:** The SCA will have minimally packaged household personal care, household, and cleaning products to show options, as well as information about the impacts of plastics in the environment.

— **Jim** will bring tables for both groups from the church, and will bring a tent.

— **David** will bring a banner.

— Discussion of the idea of promoting "bring your own utensils, dishware, cloth napkins" for July 3rd. **Dorian** will talk with Meg of the PTA about this.

— **David** will reach out to EV owners in town and encourage them to join the parade (and identify them visibly) and stay around after to answer questions.

— **Doc** confirmed that we have two sites under consideration for community solar, at Sandy Preston's and the Orgains' land. We could provide more information about these to visitors at our tables.

— Available for staffing the table: Susan T., Dorian, Jim, Jenevra, David; Susan H. will be

— **Dorian** will bring a rubber stamp for the SCA's raffle: to enter people need to go visit some electric tool or toy or device at the SECC display.

7.

Planning for future webinar and/or in-person presentations. At the previous SECC meeting, we discussed having several "seminars" on relevant topics (solar, heat pumps, electric vehicles, etc.). SCA would love to work with us on this and could help with publicity. SCA might be able to offer one or more programs. Last year they did a Cabin Fever presentation on plastics.

Susan Tiholiz was approached by the Lions Club looking for a dinner speaker from our committee for their September gathering. ACTION ITEM: We agreed that we'd like to accept this invitation, and we will figure out what we're going to do at our August meeting. Maybe a skit? Could we carve the ham with an electric hedge trimmer or chainsaw?)

In terms of other potential online and in-person educational offerings:

Matt will talk to anyone, anywhere about cold-climate heat pumps. (David said this sounds like a Dr. Seuss story: "I will talk to you in a tree, I will talk to you on a bike . . ."). Jenevra expressed an interest in Sustainable Woodstock co-sponsoring a heat pump presentation with our committee. David suggested Michael Snell of _____ (heat pump installer in West Woodstock) as a possible sponsor.

David could speak about EVs and other aspects of sustainable transportation.

Susan H. could speak about plastics and their alternatives.

Doc could talk about WindowDressers, community solar, and and update on the Intramunicipal Energy Coordinator.

Susan Tiholiz suggested that we offer the Lions options; we could potentially offer them speakers for their meetings.

Dorian would like to see us on a regular basis provide presentations, perhaps at the Morrill Homestead education center or the library. We'd need to figure out the form and frequency and location of this series. The advantage of doing these presentations on the web is that they can be recorded and viewed later; even if person, we could record them.

David ("E-Man"!) could give a presentation on Wednesday, August 4 (right before the E-bike Library comes to Strafford for ten days: **August 8 to 17**).

Matt could do a presentation in Strafford, co-hosted with Sustainable Woodstock in September. He can also do a video-with-slides presentation on the list-serv on August 18.

Doc could do an early September presentation on WindowDressers to drum up enthusiasm for the community workshop.

And we'd like to co-host with Strafford Climate Action a presentation by **Tim Briglin** sometime, to discuss the legislative outcomes.

8.

Sub-committee and other reports – monthly updates, if any:

* Report on the Southeastern Regional Energy Planning Forum with the Vermont Department of Public Service and Southeastern Regional Planning Commissions on **June 1 at 4 PM**. **Susan Tiholiz** attended, along with Geoff Martin. Susan said this was very valuable for her, being new to these issues. The presenters emphasized that it's going to be very challenging to meet the state's goals, because we're so rural and transportation-dependent; our housing stock is old and expensive to retrofit; most towns don't have effective energy-efficiency building codes and enforcement practices; and additional solar sites put additional loads on a undersized and out-of-date transmission grid. In addition there is very fragmented data on compliance, with a huge amount of work being done by community volunteers. Susan's impression is that in most areas of the state, the emphasis has shifted from biomass and biofuels to renewables-based electrification. Susan described that this group is planning to do Low-Emissions Modeling, with public hearings in September-October.

Dorian spoke about the importance of maintaining incentives for solar and resisting the de-incentivizing that's been increasing in recent years, with net-metering reductions and confusions about the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). **Doc** feels that the legislature has to address the de-incentivizing issue. Come September, the RECs will have a negative value, as they're retired to the utility, which is claiming that they need this to cover the expense of upgrades and to lower rates for "all Vermonters." Green Mountain Power seems to be steering the Public Utilities Commission with these arguments.

* Geoff Martin/Intermunicipal Energy Coordinator: **Doc** reported on current projects. Geoff is working with the regional supervisory union to plan for school energy audits by an ESCO partner. **JIM GLEAN FROM PDF report**

All the solar companies are now saying that if RECs are "retired" they have to be credited to meeting the state's goals. **SEE LAW SCHOOL ENERGY CLINIC website, but that's outdated; JULY MEETING: self-education for committee members to understand and be able to explain** After September: minus-1 cent per kilowatt hour (Geoff Martin has been asked to produce

* WindowDressers: 21 Strafford households signed up for a total of 169 inserts (133 qualify for income sensitive subsidies!)

We are having training/retraining for Str/Thet measurers June 23rd: Doc & Heather Bagley, Barb and Wally Smith, Tii McLane, Tom Jacobs, David Lutz and Jenevra Whetmore

The Community Workshop is scheduled for Sept 8 to 19 (will probably not use all those days)

Thetford: 34 households signed up for a total of 204 inserts.

Will explain more at our meeting tonight.

Here are some positions that need to be filled for the WDs 2021 program:

Volunteer Coordinator: Ensures that each shift at the Community Workshop (CW) is fully staffed with volunteers and client-participants. One from Thetford / One from Strafford

Lunch/Food Coordinator: Insure there are lunches for each day of the CW and coffee / drinks are available throughout the days. One from Strafford / One from Thetford

Community Workshop Coordinator: Set up pickup of materials from WD at designated spot. Keeps track of inventory of frames before and after assembly. Coordinates insert building with recipients volunteer time. Makes sure the jigs are packaged and ready for pickup from the next community workshop in VT. One from Strafford / One from Thetford

Other Business:

Next meeting: We should discuss **education/outreach for Fourth of July**, including a display of electric tools and recreational gear, and promotion of a “bring your own utensils and dishware” to reduce trash load of the gathering.

Next Meeting: July 8, 2021, 7 pm via ZOOM

Adjourned: 8:56 pm

Respectfully submitted by Jim Schley, Recording Secretary_____