

Strafford Energy Committee (SEC) Meeting Minutes

7/9/19

7:30 PM

Town Office meeting room

Meeting called by: Doc Bagley

Type of meeting: SEC meeting

Facilitator: Doc Bagley

Note taker: Jim

Attendees: Doc Bagley, David Lutz, Janet Cavanagh, Jim Schley, Barbara Smith

Next Meeting: August 13, 2019: Energy Committee meeting

Minutes

Agenda items:

1. **Minutes:** Review minutes from May. Approved.
2. Municipal building efficiency audits / data collection from work done in previous years and SECC participation in future Town Office renovation (blower-door test, etc.): ACTION ITEM: Request an update from Doc, and Matt is interested in being involved in analysis of data and identifying options.
 - a. Doc has reviewed propane usage for heating of Office and Garage: Town used 3,871 gallons at cost of \$6,813; and the Highway Department used 14,584 gallons of diesel at cost of \$38,847.
 - b. Doc been reviewing with Epogy and Strafford Solar LLC to clarify town solar project billing, but school, library, town office, etc. have different proportions and monthly numbers are ambiguous in the spreadsheet: only shows what the system is generating, not with the individual building/partners are using. Hasn't been provided with the "trued-up" end-of-year summary yet.
 - c. We need to review projects done by the previous Dori Wolfe and previous SECC in order to compare/summarize results in order to define next initiatives.
 - d. Kevin mentioned a specific goal of managing heat from the EC Fiber server closet to improve upon the portable AC across the room. Town office renovation won't occur for 2-3 years, and at that point closet heat could be incorporated into plan.
3. Regarding possibility of working with Newton School to develop an educational project for kids and parents related to energy & sustainability goals by the state, Kevin initiated a contact with the Thetford Energy Committee, which is aiming to set up a meeting with the new principals at Thetford Elementary School and Thetford Academy. Jim will attend that meeting and then ask to meet with the new principal and science/math teacher (Erik Reimanis) about energy education projects for the Newton School. ACTION ITEM: Jim will follow up with the Thetford committee members and seek an opportunity to meet with the Strafford school staff in the near future.
4. Status report on **Enhanced Energy Plan**, relating to state mandate of 90% renewables by 2050. Doc suggested that Dee Gish review the plan, and Jim for grammar/mechanical proofreading, then we could schedule a presentation. ACTION ITEM: Jim will try and add additional information about home-scale renewable use: Lower Dodge Road, Blue Moon Co-op, Van Dyke Road, Wetmore Road, Durkee Road, Taylor Valley Road, Brook Road.
5. No **TRAC** report for this meeting.
6. **Pocket Park:** Barbara reported that a tree that she thought had died has a new shoot: she's named it the Freedom Justice Tree.
7. **Button Up campaign**

Kevin talked to some people and left messages for others. ACTION ITEM: Jim, David, Janet, and Matt need to do their calls from Doc's May 22 spreadsheet. Jim will also call back Leigh Funston to find out the status of the Capstone work on her house.
8. **Fourth of July parade:** In addition to electric cars, this year we featured non-fossil-fuel tools and vehicles (lawn mowers, chainsaws, trimmers, e-bikes, etc.) with a banner between two poles to clearly identify. We could also have the sample WindowDresser window and printed handouts. People were very responsive

9. **Window Dressers:** We've signed up to do 200 windows between Thetford and Strafford, and the community workshop will be in early January, which means we need to have orders in by November. We will need to raise about \$1,600 to pay for subsidizing lower-income residents. For those who can pay, suggested contribution is \$40 per window. Invite additional donations to support others, and participation in the community workshop. It's up to the measurers to recommend low-income subsidies for some or all of the windows for a given household. Could someone write a grant application for support, for instance to New England Grassroots Environment Fund. Janet will start the process. Heather Bagley may be able to help with the Mascoma Bank Foundation. This expense can also be included in the Efficiency Vermont \$100 grant for do-it-yourself projects.

Jack Stomberg from Glover is willing to come down in January to help with the set-up of the community workshop.

Kevin will need help organizing the volunteers; Kevin and Doc are planning to go to Glover in September-October to see how the community workshop works. Our measurers are Kevin, Doc, Barbara and Wally, Tii.

ACTION ITEMS: Publicity and outreach to generate interest and address questions. DOC will ask Heather Bagley about Mascoma Bank Foundation possibilities. JANET will start the process for an application to the New England Grassroots Environment Fund. JIM will write a summary for the September-October issue of the *Strafford News*.

10. **SECC participation in the 4-Town initiatives:** Barbara described some of the discussions from the Housing task force.

11. David reported on July 1 **new solar incentives rate for solar in Vermont: 2 cents per kilowatt hours, and \$100 fee for application, \$25 for revisions.**

Adjourned: 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Schley