

Strafford Energy Committee (SEC) Meeting Minutes

1/2/18

7PM

Town Office meeting room

Meeting called by: Doc Bagley **Type of meeting:** SEC revamp

Facilitator: Janet Cavanaugh **Note taker:** Jim Schley

Attendees: Janet Cavanaugh, Gus Speth, Barbara Smith, David Lutz, Kevin Grady, Jason Stableford, Steve Willbanks, Jim Schley

Others interested: Kemba Russell

Next Meeting: (provisional) February 13 at 7PM Town Office meeting room (alternative: February 6?)

Minutes

Agenda item: Revitalizing the SEC

Presenter:

Discussion:

1. Introductions and individual priorities, including promoting renewables and efficiency at homes and in town as a whole; transportation, for example ride-sharing; weatherization; education and inspiration; provision of accurate information.
2. Review of projects done in the past, with acknowledgment of important role of former chair Dori Wolfe.
3. SEC's current status with the town: confirmation that this is presently an ad hoc committee, similar to the Town House Advisory Group, not an officially appointed/elected body like the Planning Commission.
4. List of those contacted to become members; evidently Kemba Russell continues to be interested; other prospects identified include Gabe Zoerheide, Rosi Kerr, Phyl Harmon.
5. Steve Willbanks would prefer to be serve as liaison with the town's Planning Commission, rather than a committee member; this will be a key role, if we move forward with expansion of the Energy section in the Town Plan.
6. Potential future projects: a. Enhanced Energy Plan (EEP) with Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission (TRORC); see attachments with these minutes;
b. Education about new options for homeowners, including the "Tesla wall" battery banks, GMC-owned solar installations, Green Mountain Power (GMC) "Cow Power," heat pumps, and affordable smart cars;
c. Potential participation with Alliance of Vermont Communities in guided training process facilitated by Vermont Council for Rural Development;
d. Weatherization subsidy funding (Vital Communities grant application deadline in 2018).
7. Several committee members expressed lack of familiarity with current Town Plan (see draft attached with these minutes) and Enhanced Energy Planning process and consequences (see attachment); some concern was expressed that EEP could allow towns to limit renewables and efficiency measures (for instance modernized street lighting and wind turbines).
8. Need for more accurate and updated information on what is being generated by the Elizabeth Mine and community solar installations; question of source of numbers for Strafford on TRORC's renewable energy targets (Appendix C); % of overall usage from 110kW(DC) solar for town, school, Barrett Hall, the library, United Church and site landowner.
9. Need for committee member familiarity with current Town Plan; see attachment with these minutes.
10. Transportation: question of Stagecoach expanded routes and value of posted list of those willing to ride share
Question of Carbon Pricing and the Essex Plan (Action Committee training scheduled for 1/4/18 was postponed).
Not discussed from previous meeting's minutes: Possible public forum to discuss: Carbon Pricing (Political Action Group progress from neighboring towns), Enhanced Energy Plan, Vermont's plan to be 90% renewable by 2050, seek out new SEC members; SEC collaboration with other towns (Sharon, SoRo, Thetford, Tunbridge) as part of a regional group; updates on which town buildings have had energy audits and energy retrofits (Janet noted that storm-window inserts for meeting room had not been installed for this winter).