

# Strafford Energy & Climate Committee (SECC) Meeting Minutes

3/10/20

7:00 PM

Strafford Town Hall

**Meeting called by:** Doc Bagley

**Type of meeting:** SEC meeting

**Facilitator:** Doc Bagley

**Note taker:** Jim, transcribed from recording

**Attendees:** Doc Bagley, Kevin Grady, Matt Christie, Susan Hodges

**Next Meeting:** April 14, 2020, 7 pm

## *Minutes*

### Agenda items:

1. **Minutes:** Review minutes from February. Approved.

2. **ACTION ITEMS** from previous meeting:

item 3a. The **state is looking for a municipality to partner with**, for reviewing carbon impacts in a town forest. Doc called David Paganelli, who recommended that he talk to Michael Snyder, who is commissioner of VT Forests, Parks and recreation.

item 4. Susan sent the Energy Committee the most recently dated version of Climate Resolution FAQ handout, and Doc sent this to Lisa to add this to the documents on the Energy Committee page, which hasn't yet been done.

item 5. Matt asked the park-and-ride neighbor about the possibilities for recharging electric vehicles at that house, but there wasn't a lot of enthusiasm. We'd like to ask David Lutz to advise us on possibilities for having a charging station at the park-and-ride.

item 6. Discussed "Reach" or "Stretch" codes that are higher than state requires, which we'd asked Matt if we could create to give to zoning administrator Brian Johnson as a packet for distribution to people applying for building permits; we could ask the Selectboard to adopt a set of standards.

item 7. Doc still plans to follow up with Lisa Bragg about whether there are legalities in changing our name; the Selectboard expressed no objection, but "Energy Committee" is a town/municipality function and there may be rules about terminology. We may need to find proof that there is no legal or official problem with changing the name.

3. New chair: Kevin is willing to become the chair. Doc will run the April meeting, then Kevin will take over. Doc will continue on the committee and will focus on weatherization, Efficiency Vermont, Capstone, ButtonUp, and WindowDressers.

4. For the April meeting: We're hoping to have Shannon Varley and Amy Huyffer come and talk to us about farmland sequestration of carbon and ways we could give farms credit for that service, the way we have provisions in the state's tax law favorable to forest land (current use).

5. Kevin reported on a Hartford Energy Committee visit to a trailer park with sixty homes; offering to provide information about LIHEAP, Capstone, other weatherization programs. Most people seemed reluctant to come to the door. In our town, outreach would be most effective if based on relationships. A good summary of the different options was prepared for this outreach that's on the Vital Communities website: <https://vitalcommunities.org/energy/weatherize/energysavings/>.

6. Regional Energy Coordinator: All towns but one didn't pass approval for sharing expenses. Nick Clark feels that it still may be possible to hire a coordinator minus that \$6,000, as there are other town potentially interested in participating. A meeting will probably be called for April, facilitated by Nick, to take stock and plan. For now Kevin will represent us.

## 7. New subcommittee structure:

- Transportation (David)
- Buildings: Weatherization / Home heating / Efficiency (Matt and Doc)
- Distributed electrical generation / Renewables (Kevin)
- State legislators / Town officials and commission liaisons (Kevin, Susan)
- Agriculture and forestry (Gus and Barbara)
- Education and communication (Jim)

We had 125 volunteers for WindowDressers and 110 people signed the Climate Emergency resolution; there are more people engaged in these projects that could be drawn into Energy Committee work.

## 8. Weatherization: Capstone, ButtonUp (EVT), Cover, WD 2020

- Efficiency Vermont: 50% off weatherization program

**ACTION ITEM:** Doc would like to send out an e-mail to participants in our past projects and describe current options.

9. **Enhanced Energy Plan:** Working with the planning commission and Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) on updating and completing our Enhanced Energy Plan. We need to deal with our Planning Commission, possibly with a requirement for public hearings. Doc suggests that we ask the TRORC staff (Tori, new director) for advice on how to complete this process, and also look to the new Regional Energy Coordinator for assistance, once that position is filled.

## 10. WindowDressers update: Doc

- Possible VT get together this spring / summer?
- Survey: More than 50 responses from 120 participants. **ACTION ITEM:** Doc will share the results.
- Efficiency Vermont: If you put in three WindowDressers inserts, you're eligible for a \$100 rebate
- Upper Valley Energy Committee Roundtable at Fireside Inn: 5 min presentation 3/18 — Doc
- Norwich Energy Committee presentation 3/24 — Doc
- 2020 program in Strafford: Plan for Sept/Oct. Barrett Hall for community workshop? Church groups participation, United Church and Unitarian
- Pursue future grant money for WindowDressers (New England Grassroots Environmental Fund deadline 3/15/20)

**Other Business:**

Strafford Climate Action Group update: Susan

- Following passage of the Climate Emergency Resolution, they're drafting a letter for the Selectboard outlining
- Thursday, April 2: Speakers (Robin Jacobs plus another) in Barrett Hall: discussing Public Health and Climate
- No date yet: Presentation on evaluating and estimating your carbon footprint

**Adjourned: 8:43 pm.** / Respectfully submitted by Jim Schley