

Vershire Town Energy Committee
Minutes of Meeting September 1, 2021

Present: David Hooke, Neil Hochstedler, Richard Jayne, Pat Barnes
Justin Will and Andy Wasserman (via Zoom)

Minutes of August meeting: correction of window dresser numbers. Minutes approved with amendment

Energy Survey Review: Discussion of how to assemble and parse the data gathered.

Action Item: Pat will make the raw data available to Justin who will enter it into a spreadsheet for analysis. Pat will make a list serve announcement about receiving surveys and last chance to participate.

Discussion of the charge of the energy committee whether to be principally educational or otherwise action oriented.

Town Garage: Selectboard has not yet made specifications for garage with respect to energy efficiency. If the garage has a useful life of 50+ years, what investments in energy efficiency are worthwhile? What are the parameters and design assumptions (For instance, how quickly must the building restore working temperature after the garage doors have been opened on a winter day...?) that should be incorporated in the design? David met with the select board and they expressed interest in pursuing these questions with the architect.

Action Item: Pat and Andy agreed to join David in meeting with the selectboard. The selectboard needs to establish the goals for the building (lifespan, carbon emissions, energy efficiency, embodied carbon in lifecycle of the building, lifetime maintenance costs, how capable is the architect to answer these questions...) the energy committee should provide the selectboard with these questions and pursue answers. David will communicate with the selectboard.

Audits of other town facilities: David reported that the selectboard would be interested in having energy audits performed on the town's buildings. Pat reported that Vershire Fire and Rescue is similarly interested in an energy audit for its building.

Action item: Neil and Richard will research contractors to perform such audits with hopes of securing proposals for auditing the buildings.

We need to help get the word out about the availability of the Efficiency Vermont virtual energy audit.

Action Item: Andy will experiment with the virtual Efficiency Vermont energy audit.

Solar array for town garage: selectboard is interested...wetlands can be an issue for structures considered permanent however there is significant acreage that is outside the wetland delineation. Discussion of researching an installation of a municipal/community solar array before enlisting vendors to make a proposal for a project.

Report by Andy on Strafford's community solar array project. Doc Bagley is a principle in the project and is willing to meet with this committee.

Action item: Invite Norwich Solar Technologies (David) and Doc Bagley from Strafford Energy Committee (Andy) to talk about Strafford's approach.

We await the selectboard and Town Clerk's approval of the mechanics for interfacing with the town website.

Action Item: Justin will communicate with Gene Craft about how this work may go forward.

Other Business: Window Dressers have reached their goal (200) of windows in Vershire, Bradford, West Fairlee, and Corinth with Vershire being well represented.

Vital Communities' volunteer effort to improve the energy efficiency mobile homes.

Action Item: Pat will contact vital communities to better understand this effort and how it may work in Vershire.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Barnes September 1, 2021