

Vershire Energy Committee  
Minutes of Meeting 1.12.22

In attendance: David Hooke, Pat Barnes, Richard Jayne, Justin Will, Andy Wasserman, Neil Hochstedler

Minutes from December 8 meeting: accepted.

Action item: David will ask the Select Board to appoint Pete Logan as a member of the energy committee.

Andy reported on her conversations with Becca Custer of VECAN. Five areas of focus: transportation, thermal heating, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and land use. Richard mentioned that as so many issues of energy efficiency are hard to quantify and that simply using dollars as a proxy or energy savings may be appropriate.

**Action item: VECAN website research. Transportation—Richard, Thermal heating—Pat, Energy efficiency—Andy, Renewable energy—Neil, Land use—Justin. David on measuring impact.**

There was discussion of whether the committee should create its own website with a link from the town's website or to work through Gene Craft to upload content to the town's website. **Action item: continue to pursue content placement on town's website through Gene Craft.**

Transportation alternatives: Richard reports Tri-Valley bus line is looking into expanding service into the Chelsea—Thetford corridor. A discussion of carpooling, bus needs, and shared grocery pick-up took place. Questions for a transportation survey arose (see "Surveys" below)

Energy Fair: **Action item: David will take a request for fair to the Select Board.**

TRORC/Efficiency Vermont **Action item: Andy will contact TRORC for usage data.**

Surveys: 1) Household energy improvements, 2) Potential market for a Chelsea – Thetford – Upper Valley public transportation. **Action Item: Justin will develop surveys.**

Neil reported on PV installation (CPG grants) are available from PUC. **Action item: Neil will total the capacity of PV CPG granted in Vershire.**

Data from Capstone concerning low-income household efficiency improvements: **Action item: Andy will contact them before the next meeting.**

Reaching residents w/o internet access: The idea of having Recycling Coordinators help disseminate information was discussed. **Action item: Pat will talk to Mike Gunn about his willingness to host a resource table/kiosk about energy information**

David reported on the availability of ARPA money for town building energy audits and retrofits **Action item: David will make a recommendation to the SB to pay for energy audits. (Neil will contact other auditors for competing proposals.)**

Window Dressers — Neil reported on the post-season meeting. There is another meeting on 1.20 to plan for the coming year. A core committee of four from Vershire, Corinth and Chelsea will lead aspects of the effort and are in search of committee chair.

Town Garage — David reports that some cost estimates for the facility are developing and the challenges of using heat pumps to warm the floor are becoming apparent. We are waiting for an estimate of electrical demands of the building to size a PV array.

Report for Town Report — The timing of the written report TBD. **Action items: Andy will write an introduction; David will then outline a report and send it to committee members to flesh-out. Pat will make the report at the “other business” portion of town meeting.**

Richard suggested making a UPS and FEDEX pick-up site in town.

Justin plans to attend a webinar on the use of ARPA money h on 1.14.

Neil will attend the Town Center committee to report on energy issues at the Town Center building.

Steve Bauer is inviting interested parties in attending an advanced wood heating webinar. Pat, Neil, and Richard expressed interested.

Next meeting: February 2, 2022

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Barnes January 12, 2022