

## Vershire Town Energy Committee

December 8, 2021

### Minutes

**Members present:** David Hooke, Justin Will, Richard Jayne, Andrea Wasserman, Neil Hochstedler

1. Meeting commenced at 7:05pm
2. Minutes from November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting are approved.
3. Website update (Justin) - Still need website permissions to be able to create website under the town website. Reminder email went out to Gene today.
4. Park n Ride (Richard) – Looking into a drop-off at the town center. Could be a on route between Thetford-Chelsea. Not sure what amount of ridership would be needed to be viable.
5. Energy Fair (David) – Selectboard supports an energy fair at Vershire Day and asked what it might entail.
  - a. Justin suggested a Tesla display model, and Richard added that a solar display would be great. David said some solar vendors might be willing to put on the display. Andy recommended our fair focus on the overall objective of getting to Net Zero. Andy said another option might be Town Meeting day, since that'll be coming up sooner. Andy suggested we could have a discussion about the new state climate plan. Justin suggested inviting our state reps or senators to come speak about the climate plan. Neil said there's a guy on Thetford Hill that has electric bikes that would be interested in coming to present. Neil suggested that we could have brochures and handouts available for a number of weatherization materials, etc. David suggested we target a window of 3-5pm, and could be located on the ballfield or the front lawn. Will need a table, tent and likely space to park an electric car, solar display and/or electric bikes.
6. Home Energy Assessments (David) – The newsletter is out tomorrow with the story of Andy's experience with the home energy audit, and David is wondering how we can get more people onboard to get this done, perhaps by Vershire day. Is there a way to create a centralized opportunity to report to us the energy improvements or weatherizations that worked? Self-reporting might be the best way to quantify to some extent the improvements that have been made in Vershire.
  - a. Andy suggested adding it to the agenda for Town Meeting to present our experiences and promote the audits.
  - b. Justin asked if Efficiency Vermont could report to us how many residents have completed a Home Energy Assessments. **Andy will** ask her contact, Jamie about accessing this data.

- c. David will send current home audit story out to the listserv.
  - d. Justin suggested we could create a Google Form that people could fill out to report new weatherizations, energy improvements, solar production, etc. Justin will create a form template that could be included with a blurb on the listserv.
  - e. Neil will talk to the Public Services Board to see how often the solar maps are updated to see if it's current enough to measure solar projects/production in town. There are known sites missing from this dashboard as far as we could tell:  
<https://www.vtenergydashboard.org/>
  - f. Neil suggested reaching out to Capstone as well to see what weatherizations have been completed. Andy will talk to Capstone about data on this.
  - g. Andy asked about the number of residents without computers and how we could reach them. David suggested that Mike Gunn could be used as an intermediary and ask residents about energy efficiency projects.
7. Town Walkthru (David/Neil) – We completed a walkthrough of both buildings with a lot of interesting insights but we're still waiting on the report from Jen Severidt. Neil was glad to hear that the big ticket items have already been done. Most insulation projects in the town office didn't sound like they would be worth it, but a heat pump was definitely recommended. A mudroom was also recommended to reduce the draftiness at the desk near the door. The recommended heat pump would also help with circulation, including radon. In the town center, she recommended replacing lights with LEDs when they failed. The wall insulation of Urea-formaldehyde (UF) was starting to break down and is not considered a toxic waste. Could be replaced with cellulose and grant money or settlement funds may be available.
- a. Neil pointed out that the EV analysis was focused on 20-year paybacks or better, but the life of the building is going to be longer, making some of these projects more viable. For example, Neil mentioned that the foundation of the building was set for a 100 lifespan when it was re-located to that location.
  - b. Richard will research UF funding available.
8. Energy Audits (David) – Was contacted by an energy consultant from Two Rivers who may be able to provide more options. Richard will reach out to ask about getting a full audit of both town buildings using ARPA money.
9. Window Dressers (Neil) – Spoke with Peet who wrote a testimonial that we can merge with others to share in the listserv. Neil will continue to compile this info. As for the future, small towns could benefit from more institutional support, compared to towns like Norwich, Bradford or Hanover that can apply a lot of resources. Next year could see a combined event with Corinth, Chelsea, etc. in order to reduce the load on the core committee in Vershire. The core committee will meet tomorrow, December 9<sup>th</sup>, and will discuss plans further. There has been a lot of interest afterwards, that might suggest demand for at least 40-50 inserts for next year already.

10. Town Garage (David) – Still waiting for architect to come back with revised plans. Architect is working with Efficiency Vermont about an energy model for the structure to help anticipate electric and propane costs.
11. Upcoming Events of interest
  - a. 12/9, 12:00pm - Tips, Tools & Strategies for an Effective Energy Committee (VECAN)
    - i. [Register Here](#)
  - b. 1/14, 10:30am - ARPA And Your Town - Getting Involved and Maximizing the Opportunity (VLCT)
    - i. [Register Here](#)
12. **Andy will** talk to VECAN about expectations for towns to reach Net Zero goals, especially in connections or corroboration with the state Climate Council plan.
13. Next meeting will be January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Minutes prepared by Justin Will