

Minutes of Vershire Town Energy Committee

April 6, 2022, 7 PM

Vershire Town Center – with Zoom option

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8410780575?pwd=RWdJWTEzdEJqV1V6TWWhJSHduNFJzdz09>

Approval of minutes from March 24

Town Garage – There will be a meeting on April 9 at 2:00 pm in preparation for the Selectboard to launch a campaign to support the bond for the town garage. James Coe (architect) will present about design, permitting, and engineering. Contingencies are currently baked into the cost estimates; however, upgrades to heating (radiant slab, heat pump are not yet included.) Charlie Carpenter from Efficiency Vermont has been replaced by Matt Deslauriers and Matt will come to the 4.9 meeting. H518 “fuel switching bill” (funds from which could be available this fiscal year but only after an “assessment” is performed statewide) has been voted out of the house and is now in the Senate energy committee on which Marc MacDonald serves. David invited Senator MacDonald to attend the 4.9 meeting. Strategies for representing the concerns of the Energy Committee at the 4.9 meeting were discussed. David will send a note to James Coe and the Selectboard asking if we can participate in the meeting and if David may communicate directly with James Coe. Pete also suggests VRDC (Vermont Rural Development Council) as a source of support for design and implementation of heating systems.

Pete made an impassioned case for laying out the financial and environmental cost of using conventional (petroleum) heat sources.

Richard suggests that all new construction should require solar (at least as back-up)

There will be a selectboard meeting 4.12 at 7:00 during which the Selectboard hopes to settle on the bond amount. As many of the Energy Committee members as possible will try to attend.

Energy Audit for Town Office – Pete reports that the auditor was waiting to hear from Gene Craft who is, himself, awaiting radon testing results. Pete will call the Town Office tomorrow morning. Even if there were to be an immediate go ahead, an audit would not be available for a couple of months. Since cellulose was blown into the attic recently, air sealing windows might be the next step (yet might be problematic if radon is a problem.) Heat recovery ventilation, an alternative to electric baseboard as a heat source, and a vestibule at the door are considerations.

Vershire Day Energy Fair – David gave an overview of the typical day and suggested timing of hosting Energy Committee events. Pat suggested that the highest traffic surrounds the chicken barbeque. Starting just before the food is served 2:00 and extending to 4:00. Possible presentations include: EV's (Pat), e-bikes, a Tri Valley Transit bus to demonstrate (Richard), Efficiency Vermont (Andy), Solaflect (Andy), Building Energy (David), Window Dressers (Neil and Pat). David will communicate with Laura Craft, coordinator of Vershire Day.

Communications and Outreach

- Pat will coordinate with Neil about announcing this year's Window Dressers event to be held at the Chelsea Town Hall in November.
- Town Meeting annual report: Andy suggests that we develop a draft and edit. David will create the draft of a summary report.
- Website: no report from Justin

- Transfer Station information board: Pat reported that he met again with the Selectboard and is in process of designing an information board that can hang on the warming hut.
 - Town newsletter: David will ask Gene about the timing of the newsletter.
- EV ambassadors contact information available through listserv an/or town newsletter. (Pat)

Grant writing to support the Window Dressers inserts for Town Center Building: Andy reported the process is underway and will continue with the Selectboard's blessing.

Fedex drop box: Richard reports that the work order has been issued but the box is not yet installed.

Next regular meeting: May 4, 7:00 pm. An additional meeting, well before town meeting, might be warranted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Barnes, secretary