

Minutes of Vershire Town Energy Committee
Special (brief) meeting
July 6, 2022, 7 PM

Vershire Town Center – with Zoom option

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8410780575?pwd=RWdJWTEzdEJqV1V6TWJSHduNFJzdz09>

Present: David Hooke, Pat Barnes, Richard Jayne, Neil Hochstedler,

Minutes from June 20, 2022 meeting approved.

2022 Vershire Day Energy Fair Debrief: It was challenging to capture people's attention at the Chicken barbeque. More give-aways of free stuff (EV) could be helpful. Perhaps our tables could have been down on the flat near the eating tent for better engagement? However, Neil liked the location but wished for more interactive events. Electrical hand tools seemed to attract positive attention. It was too bad that Solaflect backed out; it would be possible to have multiple vendors of the same service/product. Mike from Tri-Valley Transit was pleased with the response to their bus. Gene Craft offered the idea to charter a Tri-Valley bus for an event in the valley for Vershire residents. Would it be worthwhile to reprise the event for the Vershire Fall Festival? Could we obtain an electric tool (chainsaw, string trimmer...) to raffle at such an event? **Who will solicit this gift?** Perhaps Solaflect could attend.

Review 2021-22 & Goal-setting for 2022-23: FedEx drop box must be on private property and thus could be located on Church-Orr property. Richard will reach out to Vershire to see if they would be willing to site the box. The Vershire post office is located on leased land from Maurice Sleeper—**David will reach out to Maurice.**

Tri-Valley Transit: requires a minimum of 6 riders in a given hour on a regular basis. Could a Google Forms survey be presented through the listserv to measure interest? **Richard will reach out to Tri-Valley to see what information they'd like in a survey. Pat will contact Gene Craft to see where we might have a paper survey during the August 9th primary.** Neil suggests that towns of West Fairlee and Post Mills should be included. **Neil will contact Phillip Mulligan to see if Chelsea residents would like to participate in the survey. David will contact West Fairlee folks.**

Community woodsplitter / woodbank / labor bank? David has done some research into other town's efforts. Folks interested in small-scale good work projects might encourage sustainable energy use. Richard suggested a storage area (at the old, or maybe the new, town garage.) Neil suggested inexpensive wood moisture meters to test firewood monitoring.

Dartmouth runs a van from Chelsea to the college for employees. **Neil will contact Peggy Darrow and share the gathered info with Richard.**

Window Dressers is fully subscribed for the coming November workshop. Currently, a surprisingly high percentage of subscribers are *not* low income. Neither Thetford nor Strafford are hosting workshops this year therefore Bradford and Vershire-Corinth-Chelsea are absorbing the other towns' demand. Because many of the inserts this year are from municipal buildings, we will need to solicit additional volunteers.

How to encourage more Vershire residents to avail themselves of Efficiency Vermont (EV) telephone walk-throughs? EV is currently backlogged.

Could our committee offer blower-door tests to residents? What equipment, time, expertise would be required? **Pat will look into this project.** What other training is available and necessary to conduct energy audits? **(Neil and Pat will work on this.)**

Andy will drop EV literature off at the town office for display.

Thetford EV ambassadors—**Pat will work toward this.**

Kiosk: **Pat and Jack Kruse will let others know when more labor will be useful.**

The Energy Committee Website remains stalled.

Kathy Hook suggests that as part of the Vershire Park-n-Ride, that a level 2 charger be installed in the town office parking lot. **Pat will contact EV Go and Chargepoint about what it will take to install said charger.**

Town Garage

- update on state funding
- Comments on bid package

David Green, Woodstock Fire Chief has offered a standing invitation to visit the Woodstock facility.

The next Selectboard meeting where the garage will be discussed will be July 19. **David will attend and monitor progress.** “Construction Management” has replaced “Competitive Bidding” as a process for municipalities. Gene Craft is investigating how other towns are making this transition. Richard suggested using the Tri-Valley transit van to take town officials to Woodstock and he will look into the possibility.

H518 update: little progress is yet evident. Federal and state law must be meshed to enact this funding source. **David continues to monitor the progress.**

Recommend replacement for Justin Will—Marty Hale, Madge, Katrina Monson (TMS) **David will contact Katrina.**

Next regular meeting: August 10, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Barnes, secretary