

Vershire Town Energy Committee

August 15, 2022, 7 PM

Vershire Town Center – with Zoom option

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

Present: David, Pete, Richard, Neil, Pat

Approve DRAFT minutes from July 6, 2022 meeting, attached

- Note that Gene suggested that we encourage people to ride buses rather than charter one
- Minutes from 7/6 approved

Energy Resource Table/event at Fall Festival

- David proposed the idea
- Maybe have some electric lawn care stuff
- Unclear when the festival is, but when we know what that is we'll revisit this. **David will investigate with VerShare**

Joining IREC? (7-town regional energy committee with Jeff Martin/TRORC)

- Geoff Martin has no more time in his sched for us, but we might squeeze into his group if another town drops, starting January. He suggests we discuss with the select board since it costs money and will get back to us with his rates.
- What do we get for this money? Energy audits for municipal buildings and technical assistance with wx. Need more detailed info. **Neil will gather more info from Geoff**

Other updates from the July 6 meeting: Fedex box, local transportation survey, Efficiency Vermont services, performing our own energy audits/blower door tests locally, kiosk at transfer station, charger at town center, etc.

- Fedex box - landlord at post office building will talk with postmistress, **Richard to follow up with another email, David on Landlord.**
- Local transpo survey - **Richard is going to follow up with tri valley about what needs to go in that**

Update on Town Garage, funding, available grants

- Discussion of facilitating visit to Woodstock fire station. If Timberhomes submits a bid, then David will abstain from talking about that. **Richard thinks Tri-Valley Transit might take us all down there and will investigate. David will make a proposal to the selectboard about visiting Woodstock at the 8.30 SB meeting.**

Performing Energy Audits locally by energy audit: Neil has spoken with Phillip Mulligan about using (renting/borrowing/buying) his blower door and thermal imaging equipment. Neil has also spoken to his brother-in-law about a piece of software that helps predict the impacts of weatherization improvements. Pete reminded us that to qualify for EV incentives, such work would need to be performed by an individual certified by an organization like BPI. **Pat will organize a meeting with interested committee members.**

Pete suggested a program, hosted by the EC that would offer a presentation of information similar to the EV telephone audit. We s;so discussed a program hosted at the town center to provide "Weatherization 101" in early to mid September, to give an overview of the most cost-effective DIY strategies and also

hope owners can engage with professional energy audits and work that would be eligible for EVt credit. Perhaps a Saturday morning 9.17 10:00 am. **Pat will draw up a draft invitation and check with Gene Craft about Town Center availability.** We also would like to know the script that EVt uses for their telephone audits, with the thought that we might be able to do these ourselves. **Pat offered to work with Andy W. to get this info from EVtt.**

Neil checked with Phillip about Chelsea participating in an energy/transportation survey. Phillip declined to be involved personally but suggested Front Porch Forum. David did not (yet) contact West Fairlee about participating but **will do so. Richard will contact Tri-Valley to see what information they require.**

There was discussion about the impact of the new federal legislation on incentives for chargers and solar installations in public spaces.

Pat will continue to pursue charging companies about installing a charger that would be available at a Vershire Park-n-Ride and Vershare Hostel guests.

Discussion about Bethel's (and Bradford's) climate impact statement about their purchasing decisions. While not binding, such a policy might be a good place to start as a municipality. **Pete will contact Clerks in Bethel and Bradford to investigate the concrete effects of that policy,** and based on this, we will approach the Vershire Selectboard about adopting a similar policy.

The Planning Commission would like the EC to have input in the new town plan. Gregory Wilson has suggested that David (rep from EC) Vern Stone (rep from SB) and he design a meeting to talk about how to structure such a meeting. Perhaps Two Rivers has some suggestions about how to structure, and possibly moderate, such a meeting. EC endorsed this engagement, **David will follow up with Gregory.**

Justin Will replacement – Katrina Monzon (TMS faculty) is not a registered voter in Vershire. **David will go to the SB meeting tomorrow to advocate for her and ask that they appoint her a member of the EC.** Aurora Berger, the new art teacher at the Mountain might be another potential committee member. (There is the thought that a connection to the Mountain School might be very effective to rally student volunteers for energy committee projects.)

Neil reported that the SB wants an inventory and report about the quality of the Town Center building windows. **Neil and Pat will arrange to measure the Historical Society. David will check into ARPA rules for the payment of Town Center window inserts.**

Pete has applied for a spot in the Climate Change Leadership Academy.

Next regular meeting: September 7, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Barnes, secretary 8.15.22