

Vershire Town Energy Committee Regular Meeting
Wednesday October 5, 7-9 PM
Vershire Town Center and by Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8410780575?pwd=RWdJWTEzdEJqV1V6TWZhJSHduNFJzdz09>

Present: David, Neil, Pat, Pete, Richard, Katrina, Andy

Approval of minutes from September 7

Energy Resource Table/event at Fall Festival October 16. David and Pat will staff the table and organize our part of the event. Andy will do her EV schtick.

Joining IREC? (7-town regional energy committee with Jeff Martin/TRORC) David will continue work on this and report back.

Fedex Box update (Richard) Box is in place but has not been tested yet. David and Richard will coordinate a test.

Local Transportation Survey (TVT bus) Survey has been placed on listserv. Four results, all positive, have returned, including one from West Fairlee. Katrina suggested reaching out to parents of Westshire and Thetford students as another way to make contact with prospective riders. David will reach out to churches along the route. Richard will reach out to the stores along the route, as well.

Selectboard/Energy Com trip on TVT Bus to Woodstock to view public safety building AWHP – report, recommendations re Town Garage - A good visit that highlighted some of the technological glitches experienced by Woodstock due to some of the new generation hardware (phase change energy storage.) Recommendations to the selectboard from the visit: In the event that funds are short, prioritize hydronic radiant system in floor and invest in an excellent insulation package. Further, David suggests starting with a determination of lowest set point and plum the system for three heat pumps which could be installed sequentially to replace gas or electrical resistance heat source as heating demand is determined through experience. David will make this recommendation to the Selectboard.

Transfer Station Kiosk - Pat will try to host a building party

Performing low-cost energy audits (Pat, Neil)

Charger at town center - Pat is in communication with several firms. Neil suggested that WEC installed a charger at a local high school and might have a program/interest in doing so at the town center.

Weatherization 101 – Pete reported his frustration with the complexities of managing benefits through EV. EV's requirement that energy auditors be BPI certified has led to a winnowing of providers. On the other hand, EV may be working with BPI to put together largely an on-line course with a brief field component. Such a program, if it becomes available might lower the impediment to certifying. Pete will follow up on the accessibility of laypeople to this program.

Efficiency Vermont Home Energy Audit phone script - No further progress this past month.

Purchasing Policy re: climate - what are other towns doing, to what effect - Pete has heard from the Bethel clerk and has been put into contact with the right individual who can provide information.

Town Plan update process – Coordination of Energy Committee with update of town plans: A series of themed-based meetings are planned for 2024. Neil broached the topic of the town constructing an “Enhanced Energy Plan” which would give the town additional leverage to direct projects. David will continue to monitor this process.

Website including report from Thetford - No progress this month though David communicated with the clerk in Thetford and learned that the difficulty of managing town websites with their many constituent committees is common. Thetford contracts with a firm to manage their website and provide access for the committees to the website. Neil suggested that ARPA money might be available for such a service. David will reach out to other Vershire town committees to see if coordination for

Energy Audit for Town Office - No progress as of yet.

Window Dressers - Fully subscribed for inserts, more volunteers needed, Neil will send Katrina information so she can share with folks at the Mountain School.

Climate Change Leadership Academy First meeting next week.

Update on H518 funding/Town Garage - Little progress on the state and federal levels has been made that will define how these funds may be distributed. David will continue to track

New business - (re-cooked Old business?) David suggests recycling some of our energy posts to the listserv to see if they might be timely to recycle.

WEC tariff changes - WEC has adopted a very negative and restrictive posture towards net-metering. Neil would like to make our frustrations known and possibly coordinate with other energy committees to enhance our voices. Neil will talk to WEC about what service charges to individuals would be if the service charge were not subsidized through energy sales.

Next meeting - November 2, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Barnes
secretary Vershire Town Energy Committee