

Vershire Town Energy Committee Regular Meeting

Wednesday January 19, 7-9 PM

Vershire Town Center and by Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8410780575?pwd=RWdJWTFEzdEJqV1V6TWVhJSHduNFJzdz09>

Present; David, Neil, Andy, Richard, Pat

Minutes from November 2, 2022 meeting approved.

Energy Fair –We can build on what we did last year. Adding the Solaflect cookie oven would be a bonus, Window Dressers, Heat pumps, heat pump hot water, blower door testing...

Pat will contact ARC to see if they'd be willing to demonstrate appliances.

Andy will contact Solaflect.

Window Dressers will sponsor another workshop next November. Clients can be signed up at any time.

Commuter Vans – Tri Valley will look at the data about interested parties that we've collected and try to arrange groups of car pools. Vans are provided by a grant through VTrans (rented from Enterprise.) A fee of approximately ~\$5.00 /person/day. Richard will send the VTrans contact info to David who will forward the survey file. It would be good to be able to report this process and opportunity at town meeting.

WEC tariff/Net metering – Neil suggested that the energy committee could lend weight to the debate by publishing a position paper. Right now, the largest consumers of power are subsidizing others by helping to pay for service fees. If service fees were proportionalized among all users, the typical household would experience service fees of about \$90/month. Neil suggests that paying the real cost for electricity is a healthier long-term solution because consumers would be paying something closer to the true cost of power service. On the other hand, Richard suggested that keeping the service fee low and charging more for electricity would encourage conservation. Andy suggested having a meeting with a rep from Washington Electric to gather more info about their intentions for tariff changes. (Neil countered that WEC's intentions are clear given their filing for new tariffs.) David suggested doing more research and meeting early (6:30 pm) on 2.3 to spend the first 30 minutes on this issue.

Pat and Pete are taking the BPI certification course that will allow them to perform audits that qualify homeowners for Efficiency Vermont rebates and incentives. A home energy retrofit company may be in the offing.

- Fedex Box update – Because the volume of usage is currently low, we are at risk of losing this box. Richard will continue to promote the box.
- Joining IREC? (7-town regional energy committee) David has expressed interest in remaining involved in this process though we don't yet know what this service would provide or what the cost to the town would be. Andy suggested asking a rep to join our next meeting to explain what the IREC could offer. Services that we imagine could be useful include energy committee website maintenance, transportation coordinator, application assistance for Act 172 funding, grant management, sharing ideas among energy committees, clearinghouse for resources...
- Transfer Station Kiosk – Timberhomes LLC has built the kiosk. Some conversation with the Vershire town road crew about how the kiosk would be positioned and used has taken place. We agreed that setting up the kiosk to have posters but also brochure boxes with flyers to take with them would be the best outreach for that location. We would need some funds for copying etc. David will communicate further with the town about the whole arrangement.
- Charger at town center – charger firms require a prohibitive upfront fee for installation. Until business models change, this seems like an unlikely project.
- Town Garage update including Act 172 (H518) funding – David had some conversation with Carl Demrow to encourage rules that would allow funding to include new construction of a replacement building (Town Garage.)

- Town Plan update process – Greg Wilson informed David that the town plan revision will be broken into sections and meetings will be held at various times on the various topics (energy included.) More information coming.
- Website – no action
- Town office audit – no action
- Climate Change Leadership Academy – no Pete to report

Old Business – Richard has met with John Smith about projecting costs for a Park & Ride

New Business – Pat will start a Google Doc to collect items for the Town report.

Next meeting: February 2, 2023 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Barnes