

Vershire Town Energy Committee Regular Meeting  
Wednesday February 1 6:30 PM  
Vershire Town Center and by Zoom

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

Present: David, Pat; Katrina, Neil, Andy, Richard via Zoom

Minutes from January 19 meeting approved.

Discussion of Energy committee position on WEC policies. – Neil advocates for a cost structure that reflects the true cost of a user's access. Richard encourages a low-cost service fee and a higher rate per kWh to encourage conservation. Currently, the WEC messaging is demonising net-metering customers as the source of WEC's increasing costs. WEC's purchase price of net metered Neil pointed out that less than 10% of WEC's generating capacity is solar and that it is all being used. No definitive position of the committee emerged. It was resolved to return to the conversation as members read further and make more contact with divergent opinions.

The selectboard calls for an energy committee (and other committees) reports at the end of their regular meetings every other Tuesday. David has been present at many of these meetings for other reasons and has often served in this reporting role but other obligations are pulling him away. Andy and Richard have offered to be among a rotation of representatives to attend the meeting provided that they have a document to guide the presentation. David agreed to provide a write-up

Energy Fair – Neither Andy and Pat have contacted Solaflect or ARC to present but are committed to doing so.. David will reach out to Catamount Solar about a display. Pat will work on corralling any emerging energy retrofit companies to be present. Pat will also contact an emerging electric bike company to see if they will present.

Andy will contact “a couple” of electric car companies.

Other elements of a fair: Efficiency Vermont materials, Electric Tools, Window dressers' display, VTrans commuter van, personal electric cars and Ebikes, etc.

Commuter Van – Richard has offered that, if he can gain access to the data, he'll pass the data to Joe at Commuter Coop VT (EHI) and they will assemble prospective groups. David will forward the data to Richard.

- Fedex Box update – Richard has been using it and will post another listserv announcement.
- Joining IREC? (7-town regional energy committee) Nicole Cyr from Bethel is spearheading the effort to hire a shared energy coordinator, which could support local towns with such things as energy committee website maintenance, transportation coordinator, application assistance for Act 172 funding, grant management, sharing ideas among energy committees, clearinghouse for resources... The conversation about how the details of this will form up have not yet emerged. Pat will send an email to Nicole Cyr to continue the conversation on the behalf of the energy committee.
- Transfer Station Kiosk – Location, location, location. The newest suggestion is to build the kiosk on locust skids so that it can be dragged around and put in the most advantageous site and moved out of the way as necessary. David called for help in designing the display. Katrina will do some preliminary work on the design.
- Park and Ride with and car charging – Federal money to improve the parking area and install a charger may be available. Neil raised the question of whether there will be demand for a facility in town. Andy and Richard will meet to discuss the plan including a conversation with VTrans about their requirements.

- Low-Cost energy audits – Pat and Pete are working on certification and coordinating with Neil about future plans.
- Town Report – Committee members should have received the shared Google doc for assembling topics for the Town Report. Andy has agreed to author a draft. David will ask Gene Craft for the deadline.
- The committee voted to Request for \$500 for Energy Committee materials in the kiosk and Vershire Day materials. And, an additional \$1000 to initiate for a fund intended for energy efficiency improvement in town, such as the park and ride lot and electric car chargers at the Town Center. David will convey this to the Selectboard and Gene.
- Town Garage update including Act 172 (H518) funding – The town has put the project out to bid again. David will contact Carl Demrow again concerning why the MERP money can't be used for new construction replacing dilapidated facilities. Hazard Mitigation money may be available to restore the site.
- Town Plan update process – David is awaiting an update due in mid-February (after the next Planning Comm. meeting) on when there will be a public comment session on the Energy section of the plan.
- Town Website – The Planning commission seems to have established a foothold with a section to post their committee minutes. David will research doing the same for the Energy
- Town office audit – no action
- Climate Change Leadership Academy – no Pete to report

Outreach – listserv posts about kiosk, energy fair, Fedex box, commuter vans...

Next meeting Wednesday, March 1 2023 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Barnes