

Minutes of Vershire Town Energy Committee Regular Meeting  
Wednesday May 3, 2023  
Vershire Town Center and by Zoom

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

Present: David, Neil, Andy, Katrina, Pat

Minutes of 4.5.23 Approved

Review of Park-n-Ride lot design. Discussion of issue to pave, or not to pave, the lot and how much of the current lot to pave. 80/20 match from state may allow an upgrade of surfaces but might require removing current pavement that is in poor condition. There might be arguments for removing asphalt and installing hard pack stone. Alternatively, keeping the current pavement and adding stone or woodchips along the margin to increase the parking area, is a possibility. **Andy offered to set up a meeting with Ally Lyford to explore the Road Crew's perspective.** Discussion of tree health and planting as it intersects with bank stabilization and a future pedestrian bridge. There was also consideration of shading the stream with plantings.

Solar on Town Garage Roof Three roof-mounted proposals: Catamount \$68,000 for 24 kW ~\$5,400 annual production; Sterling Mountain Solar \$66,000 for 24.3 kW quote is good for 15 days; Suncatcher \$65,500 24.42 kW. All similar warranties and payment terms. David has experience with all three firms and respects each.

Quotes do not include the new transformer required.

The town should receive a 30% refund through federal funds.

Analysis shows that Heat Pumps without solar give very modest savings vs all-propane.

However, combining heat pumps with solar, generates significant savings.

Choosing to do the solar installation at the time of construction will allow some savings and make a better case for MERP funding. **Pat and Neil have offered to represent the Energy Committee's recommendation at the next Selectboard meeting (May 9.)** David will ask the firms if the layouts conform to fire code and future expandability of the system, and the duration that the bids are valid. The committee recommends that unless new information comes to light, that the Selectboard sign a contract with the lowest bidder (Suncatcher) and include the solar array in the initial construction. Future expansion could be sought after the garage and solar array use/production pan out.

MERP mini-grants. Should come any day. \$4000 + \$100 Town appropriation

- David has informed the Selectboard that covers and materials for Kiosk – proposed \$800 for 4 sign covers and signs.

Proposal for other expenditures:

- Energy Fair materials, refreshments, publicity, etc. Let's not spend on this.
- Window Dressers subsidy (\$500)- Possibly seek to leverage other donations.
- Town Website work (\$500) if useful to Gene.
- A few hours of consultation from a landscape architect on the Park-n-Ride design. (\$500)

Moved and accepted.

Energy Fair, Vershire Day: Updates on Vendors

Solaflect Andy has spoken to them but has not received a commitment.

ARC **Pat has spoken to a rep but is waiting for a commitment.**

Efficiency Vermont materials—**Andy is on this.**

Vans for van pool—Richard will check on this.

Other options to consider...

Other solar vendors?

Energy retrofit companies—

E-Bike companies—**Pat will continue to work on this.**

Electric cars: **Pat will make a listserv post asking EV owners to come display their cars.**

Commuter vans – Discussion of how to catalyze adoption of the program among interested parties. 1. Identify key player(s) to host the van and invite others who have expressed interest in attending an Energy Committee meeting where we try to coordinate the process. **David will cultivate a Key player(s) and Pat will send an invite to other self-identified parties.**

Transfer Station Kiosk – progress on materials (Katrina, David) - **Katrina is willing to work with TMS students to create fixed materials. David will provide signboard and sign cover dimensions.**

Joining IREC – VCRD process: **A coordinating meeting is being scheduled for late May/Early June. Pat is planning to attend.**

Neil reports that Window Dressers has solicited the Selectboards of Vershire, West Fairlee, Strafford, Corinth, and Chelsea. To date, only Vershire has responded (anticipating the MERP mini-grant funds.). He wondered if WD can count on being able to use the funds this year. David thinks funds should be available this year.

Neil brought up the questions that the selectboard asked Richard about conduit running between the pavilion and the Town Center Building. Neil will email Richard and see if he can acquire the list of questions, and perhaps he and Pat will be able to address these at the Selectboard meeting on 5/9.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 7

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Barnes

**Special Meeting Thursday May 18 AM: Andy, David, Neil, Richard**

Discussed plans to mobilize people for the Town Meeting “Other Business” discussion about Town Garage energy systems, planned for the end of Town Meeting May 21. Agreed that all ECom should reach out to their contacts, we drafted a basic message to circulate and post on the listserv. David will make a presentation to start the discussion, showing various options, costs, benefits.

