

Present: Cap Chenoweth, Catherine Crawley, Rick Weinstein, Liz Soper, Marina Meerburg, Michael Lazorchak

Meeting called to order at: 5:30 p.m.

Review & Approve Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes of December 22, 2022. There were no changes.

On a motion by Liz Soper, seconded by Cap Chenoweth, the Committee approved the minutes as presented.

Window Dressers

Wendy Crossier, a Fellow working with Stowe Electric Department, outlined the Window Dressers program she is coordinating. She noted that they currently have interest from about 40 people in Stowe for the window units, and is currently working with Hyde Park Energy Committee as well to expand to Lamoille County. The goal is to build 200 inserts over 3-4 days, using about 10-20 volunteers per day. She explained that windows are measured, pine pieces are sent and then the assembly takes place, likely at the Green Mountain Technical Center in Hyde Park. They would like to incorporate students and the community in the build. It was noted that the Window Dresser units cost approximately \$35 each, depending on size, and there are rebates and grants to help offset costs.

On a motion by Liz Soper, seconded by Marina Meerburg, the Committee agreed to support the Window Dressers project and help where possible, working with Stowe Electric Department, DOE and Hyde Park Energy Committee.

Ballfield Groomer

Catherine Crawley updated the Board on the status of a new ballfield groomer to be purchased for Stowe Parks Department. She noted that at one point in discussions with Charles there was support for an electric machine, but he noted that due to budgeting reasons they were recommending going with a gas machine, which was presented to the Selectboard in January. Catherine caught the recommendation in the agenda summary and contacted Charles, who agreed to reach out to Stowe Electric and see if there were incentives that could make up the difference in price between gas and electric. At that time, SED offered to sponsor the Electric Ballfield Groomer by compensating the cost differential after incentives, and in exchange would receive naming rights and a sponsorship sticker on the machine. The Selectboard approved this creative plan and the purchase of an electric groomer. SED noted that they planned to include Stowe Elementary students in the naming of the groomer, but Michael Lazorchak noted he had some difficulties getting in touch with the school. Catherine agreed to assist in getting him in contact with someone at the school.

Community Outreach

Liz and Catherine are continuing to work on the survey, and adjusting timelines for when it will be ready to go before the Selectboard for approval. Liz will send out the agenda to the committee and Catherine will contact Charles Safford, Town Manager, to discuss when they might be able to get on a Selectboard Agenda. Currently the committee has 6 gift cards that can be raffled off to encourage participation, and will purchase 4 more. Catherine noted the

purpose of the survey is to support the sustainability of the committee and get people more involved in thinking about energy usage in Stowe.

School Energy Usage

Kenan Griffith was not at the meeting, so this discussion was tabled.

Other Business

Catherine encouraged everyone to get a copy of the Town Report and to attend Town Meeting Day.

Catherine noted that Scott Weathers has accepted a job in Washington DC and will be moving out of Stowe and has resigned from the Committee. The Town will be advertising the vacancy, but committee members may want to post on Front Porch Forum and encourage anyone they know who is interested to apply. It was noted that age diversity would be ideal, to include someone of a younger generation.

It was discussed that Lamoille County Planning Commission is holding an informational session on their Regional Plan Updates on February 28th.

The next Energy Committee meetings will be on March 23rd. It was noted that LCPC would like to send someone to talk about ARPA money and community building grants. It was also noted that more follow-up on a potential EV Day event would be good.

On a motion by Liz Soper, seconded by Marina Meerburg, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.