

## **Stowe Energy Committee: February 24, 2022 Minutes**

**DRAFT**

Present: Catherine Crawley, Cap Chenoweth, Elizabeth Soper, Scott Weathers, Michael Lazorchak (Stowe Electric), Marina Meerburg

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

### **Review & Approve Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes of January 27, 2022. Cap Chenoweth requested a correction in spelling his name.

On a motion by Marina Meerburg, seconded by Elizabeth Soper, the Committee approved the minutes as amended.

### **Working Group Reports**

**Transportation Subcommittee:** Marina reported that she had initial conversations with Emily Rosenbaum of Working Communities Challenge of Lamoille County and Rob Moore of Lamoille County Planning Commission. She said they want to look at how this committee could work collaboratively with other organizations to make a difference, particularly with the Mountain Road traffic issues. The workgroup will meet to try to identify issues in transportation and brainstorm approaches.

**Grants:** It was suggested that the committee form a work group to look for grants to apply for, such as the Rural Energy Pilot Grant and the Small Grants for Smart Growth. This group could look at what's available and bring it back to the Committee. Elizabeth stated that with grants the committee should be proactive not reactive, looking for grants that fall in line with the priorities of the committee rather than taking on additional projects to meet grants. The committee decided not to form a working group for this topic.

### **Window Dressers**

Catherine reported that the Hyde Park Energy Committee is pursuing a residential build with Window Dressers and would be open to including Stowe as a Lamoille County collaboration. It was discussed that this is a worthy project but may be time and labor intensive. Catherine will follow up with Hyde Park to see what level of involvement they think they will require and will bring it back to the Committee in March.

Michael Lazorchak of Stowe Electric updated on his current commercial build for Stowe, which will be measured and then built during the off season. He asked the committee to support his commercial build if anyone knew interested candidates who can't make other weatherization upgrades for whatever reason. He is also working with Efficiency Vermont to promote.

### **Youth Participation**

Elizabeth noted that she would like to work with Sarah Evans, a Stowe High School student and member of the committee, to get other interested and engaged student(s) involved in the work of the committee as she will be graduating this year.

## **Town Energy Plan**

The Committee reviewed the Town Energy Plan revisions. Cap noted that when referencing geothermal it may be better to state "Heat Pump Heating and Cooling systems" to indicate that there are many types of heat pumps and emerging technologies, such as high pressure CO2 heat pumps that are more affordable alternatives to geothermal heating.

Cap also noted that in promoting the use of Electric Vehicles it is important to have the infrastructure in place for charging these vehicles, including a wider availability of charging stations. Michael stated that State funding seems to be focusing on residential charging stations rather than public ones.

There were no further comments or changes.

Catherine explained that this Energy Plan will be submitted to the Planning Commission and Town Planning & Zoning Director Sarah McShane for next steps. The Committee will plan to meet with the Planning Commission on March 21, 2022.

## **Other Business**

Cap brought up the topic of e-bike demo days in 2022, suggesting having one day at the Events Field where multiple bike shops could bring products to demo similar to Demo Day for skiing on the mountain. Catherine suggested combining with the farmer's market. It was discussed that the bike shops should manage the demo day and the Committee would help to promote it. Cap will follow up with Pinnacle Sports.

Catherine mentioned that there is a Bill, H697, to promote and protect old forests and members were encouraged to reach out to Heidi to support it if they chose.

On a motion by Marina, seconded by Scott Weathers, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.