

Present: Cap Chenoweth, Liz Soper, Rick Weinstein

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

**Review & Approve Minutes**

The Committee reviewed the minutes of March 23, 2023. There was one correction regarding the survey. The sentence will be corrected to state “Liz put the survey into survey form and sent to the committee to test.”

There was no quorum, so no motion to approve the minutes was made.

**Town Priorities & Committee Plan for Year**

The members reviewed the document that Catherine Crawley had drafted. Cap noted that supporting e-bike and e-vehicle events was not included, and had been brought up in the past. Liz will add “Continue to support EV and e-Bike events.” She noted this document was in response to the Selectboard discussing their priorities and wanting to assure that energy priorities were sent to the Selectboard. Once finalized and approved, the document will be sent to Charles to forward on to the Selectboard.

Cap also noted that he recently became aware of a commercial e-mower from Green Works that is significantly cheaper and with high performance standards. He has forwarded this information to Catherine and David Danforth, Parks Superintendent, but had not received a response from David. It was suggested that it be sent to the Director of Parks & Recreation.

**Municipal Energy Resilience Program**

Liz reported that she and Catherine had worked with Public Works Director Harry Shepard and Assistant Public Works Director Chris Jolly, and they had applied for the \$4,000 mini-grant, which should hopefully put them in a good position to apply for the larger grant. It was noted that it needed to be the Town who applied for the grant, not the committee.

Cap noted that he had concerns that after the building assessments for the Akeley Memorial Building, Helen Day Art Center Building and Ski Museum Building, the recommendation was to start with the Akeley Memorial Building weatherization. However, he felt Harry was hesitant to do that due to the many difficulties in the historic building, and may focus on smaller improvements at the other two buildings first. Cap asked that the Committee emphasize the importance of weatherization of the Akeley Building in the Energy Committee Priorities list discussed earlier in the meeting.

**Community Outreach**

Cap reported that he had completed the survey and submitted some comments. Liz will review.

**School Energy Usage**

There was discussion on the succession planning for the Student Representative seat. Liz stated that Catherine had spoken with Roger Murphy and asked about making another presentation, however he felt there would not be a good response if done at the end of the year and would work to push it earlier in the next school year. Liz suggested they speak with Kenan regarding if he would continue on the committee through the summer or had any suggestions on students who may be interested.

Liz also noted that a second round of e-bus grants was available and this was shared with the school bussing company. The bus company indicated that they may be interested in one or two e-busses but this grant was focused more on larger fleets. He also expressed concern about charging ability and the cost to install a charging station. There may be specific grants available.

### **Ballfield Groomer**

Liz reported that she and Catherine had been to Stowe Elementary School to make a presentation on the Ballfield Groomer, and there is a competition going on to name the new groomer.

### **Other Business**

There is currently one open position on the committee. There have been a few interested applicants, Catherine wrote up something to post on Front Porch Forum as well.

Michael Lazorchak of Stowe Electric has requested to speak at the May meeting regarding the Utilities Power Portfolio Planning, Vermont Renewable Energy Standard and how they impact the Town Plan Energy Chapter. He also wants to talk about EV Chargers in Town. Cap noted that SED has installed charging stations at the Alchemist and Trapps and those are free to use. He wants to ask Michael more about that program and if there will be more free chargers installed. It was also questioned if the chargers at the high school and recreation path are free.

Liz noted that the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network Spring Summit will be held on June 3 from 9-1 at Middlebury College. It is free and members of the Energy Committee are encouraged to attend. Liz will send out more information.

Cap noted that in a recent newsletter Michael had addressed the State requirement that 30% of the energy rebates be given to those who are economically disadvantaged, and Stowe is currently at 1%. It was noted that the focus should be on getting people to be aware of and use the rebates.

On a motion by Liz Soper, seconded by Cap Chenowith, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.