

## **Stowe Energy Committee: July 28, 2022 Minutes**

**DRAFT**

Present: Elizabeth Soper, Rick Weinstein, Cap Chenoweth, Marina Meerburg, Michael Lazorchak, Catherine Crawley, Kenan Griffin

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

### **Review & Approve Minutes**

The Committee reviewed the minutes of May 26, 2022. There were no changes.

On a motion by Marina Meerburg, seconded by Liz Soper, the Committee approved the minutes as presented.

Chair Catherine Crawley requested a motion to move the Electric Vehicle Day to the first order of business on the agenda. Marina made the motion to move the topic in the agenda and Kenan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Electric Vehicle Outreach Day**

Robi Artman-Hodge joined the committee to discuss an idea for a Electric Vehicle Outreach Day. This would be similar in some ways to other car shows, where drivers could bring their vehicles to display and discuss them with attendees. The event would be informative and bring excitement around electric vehicles to Town. It was noted that bikes and other electric equipment such as mowers could be included as well as vendors, possibly music/food to make it a community event. Stowe Electric indicated that they would be supportive of being there to promote their electric vehicle rebates. The Committee agreed to support Robi in exploring the possibility for such an event for next year.

### **Election of Officers**

Per the Committee Charge, Officers are to be elected annually. Catherine indicated that she was interested in remaining the chair, and Liz indicated that she was interested in remaining the vice chair. There was no one else interested in either position.

On a motion by Marina Meerburg, seconded by Cap Chenoweth, the Committee appointed Catherine Crawley as chair.

On a motion by Catherine Crawley, seconded by Marina Meerburg, the Committee appointed Liz Soper as vice chair.

There was discussion about appointing a clerk, but it was decided that the committee would keep having Abby Sweetser of the Town of Stowe maintain the minutes.

### **E-Bike Demo Day**

Cap provided a recap on the E-Bike Demo Day, stating that over 50 people rode demos, and more attended to ask questions and check out bikes. He said that 4 Bike Shops were present, and there was a lot of interest particularly in gravel bikes. The Committee would like to consider it again for next summer, or combining with a potential Electric Vehicle day.

### **School Bus Electrification**

Catherine reported that there is currently a grant opportunity for schools to get a free E-Bus though EPA funding if trading in a 2011 or older bus, but the deadline is 8/19/22. She said she had sent the application to the school district who sent it on to the bus contractor, but she did not know if it would go further. It was suggested that members of the committee reach out to the bus contractor, Lamoille Valley Transportation, and encourage them to apply.

### **Working Group Reports**

**Transportation Subcommittee:** Marina reported that she had recently participated in a transportation meeting with VTrans, the Town of Stowe, Vail, Spruce Peak, and other key players to discuss traffic concerns in Stowe. It was discussed that bussing needs to be prioritized, but that it also needs to be convenient and marketed as such. The Committee suggested an informational campaign to local hotels/Inns promoting the bus as the easiest way to get to the mountain. Cap mentioned that a gondola would be the best option, but due to costs and permitting/land acquisition issues, it is not a likely near-term solution. The Committee agreed to focus on how transportation issues relate to the Committee Charge, such as continuing to promote the use of e-buses to reduce emissions.

### **Municipal Energy Usage**

Catherine reported that as part of the draft Energy Plan, the Committee would like to focus on transitioning municipal buildings to being fossil-free, as a way to lead by example for the Town. She noted that Chris Jolly, Assistant Public Works Director and Facilities Director, has recently met with ESV to do mechanical systems assessment of the Cultural Campus buildings (Town Hall, Library & Ski Museum). These buildings all have aging systems and the study will look at when to upgrade and options for upgrades, such as renewable energy sources. It was noted that this project would have support from LCPC and other grant opportunities.

Cap noted that he had observed that the Town had contracted out much of their mowing, and asked if the Town could require use of electric mowers by its contractors. The committee agreed to have Cap and Catherine meet with Charles to ask about this and to discuss if they could have input in the hiring process of the Parks Department.

### **Other Business**

Catherine noted that she had been contacted by a new community solar project that is located in Hinesburg but would impact Vermont Electric Cooperative's service territory which includes a small area of Stowe. They had asked for help with outreach and posts on Front Porch Forum. It was noted that this was in conflict with SEDs work with the Committee and might be confusing to residents who don't understand that only those in a small area of town are eligible. The committee agreed not to promote the project.

Liz asked to discuss at a future meeting why there are not more younger people on the committee and interested in Energy issues.

On a motion by Liz Soper, seconded by Marina Meerburg, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.