

Present: Elizabeth Soper, Cap Chenoweth, Michael Lazorchak, Scott Weathers, Kenan Griffith

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

**Review & Approve Minutes**

The Committee reviewed the minutes of August 25, 2022. There were no changes.

On a motion by Cap Chenoweth, seconded by Scott Weathers, the Committee approved the minutes as presented.

**Transportation**

No Updates at this time.

**Municipal Energy Usage**

**Electric Equipment** – Cap reported that he had met with the Town’s new Parks Superintendent, David Danforth. He reported that he previously owned a landscaping company and had a fairly conservative approach to electric equipment. Cap said that David said he would test out an electric mower and Cap had worked with a dealer to arrange a test. David said he felt the best approach was to purchase one electric mower in this Fiscal Year and see how it works with their usage before purchasing four total.

**Town Building HVAC Assessment** – Cap reported that he had met with Jerry Marshall who prepared the proposal for the Town on upgrades/replacements to the current HVAC systems in the Library, Ski Museum and Akeley Building. It was noted that the Town has requested “worst case scenario” pricing, which includes replacement of nearly all HVAC equipment at very high costs with very long return on investments. Cap said he talked about the idea of using mini-splits instead of heat pumps for cost reduction, as well as maintaining boiler back ups, and that Jerry would include recommendations such as that in his report. Cap also said that in the Akeley Building weatherization was a critical component, with insulation and new windows the Town could reduce it’s heat load up to 60% which would result in huge fuel cost savings. ARPA funding may also be available to help with this. Jerry will be finishing up the report and sending it to Chris Jolly at the Town, who will then bring to the Selectboard.

**Energy Committee Outreach**

**Survey** - The Committee discussed the survey which was sent out by Catherine Crawley from Barre. It was noted this survey was quite long and may be better to utilize a shorter survey to get participation. The goal of the survey is to help people better understand the Energy Committees role, what they do and what issues the community would like to see the Committee address. Liz asked that each member come up with 2-3 priority questions they feel should be included in the survey and she will compile them together to create a draft survey. It was also noted that they may want to include questions directly for students asking them about how best to engage students and what issues they are most interested in.

**Button Up Program** – This is a program that Efficiency Vermont puts on to help people learn about weatherization and incentives. The committee felt it was important to promote this program and things such as the weekly webinars thought Front Porch Forum. It was noted that

the program mainly focuses on low-income households and that many from Stowe may not qualify, but it is good to keep the information on weatherization out there.

On a motion by Cap Chenoweth, seconded by Kenan Griffith, the committee moved to participate in the Button Up Program this year.

### **Other Business**

**EV Day** – Robbie was invited to the meeting to discuss plans for an EV Day, but it is still in early planning stages. The Committee will help support this event but also suggested partnering with the Town and others such as Stowe Vibrancy.

**Energy Siting Meeting** – Catherine Crawley recently attended an Energy Siting Meeting through LCPC. This meeting discussed how the Public Utility Commission reviews Energy Siting Applications and what criteria they use. Catherine reported that while it was not particularly relevant to the work of the committee it was good knowledge to have.

**Car & Driver** – Cap reported that Car & Driver Magazine recently put out an article on the best 20 EV's looking at many different aspects including battery, recharge time, 1,000 mile drives and more. He will distribute the article to the committee.

**SED Updates** – Michael Lazorchak stated that at a future meeting he would like to further discuss Tier 3 rebates & Incentives, and funding available through the Inflation Reduction Act. He also reported that there a number of UVM students currently working with SED on four projects, including the Moscow Streetscape Plan, Little River Streambank Restoration, and looking at both solar panels on the roof of the historic Mill Building as well as stabilizing the foundation. He invited interested high school students to also participate and noted that the students will be giving a presentation to utilities and the Historic Preservation Commission. It was suggested that they also present to the Energy Committee on relevant topics. Michael also reported that he is working on funding for a hydro-solar facility in Moscow that will include 70KW Solar Power and 180KW Hydro power.

On a motion by Scott Weathers, seconded by Cap Chenoweth, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.