

## **Stowe Energy Committee: October 27, 2022 Minutes**

**DRAFT**

Present: Elizabeth Soper, Cap Chenoweth, Marina Meerburg, Catherine Crawley, Rick Weinstein

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

Chair Catherine Crawley noted that the planned guest speaker, Meredith Angwin, would not be able to attend, but would be speaking to UVM students working on a project with Stowe Electric Department and that discussion can be shared with the committee in the future.

### **Review & Approve Minutes**

The Committee reviewed the minutes of September 23, 2022. There were no changes.

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

### **Transportation**

It was noted that Cap shared a link to an article in Car & Driver Magazine that reviewed Electric Vehicles.

### **Municipal Energy Usage**

**Town Building HVAC Assessment** – Cap reported that Jerry had revised the Akeley section of the recent assessment study and sent a copy to Cap to review. In the revised version, he primarily recommended weatherization of the Akeley Building. He also recommended low-temp air source heat pumps as an alternative to ground source heat pumps which can be cost prohibitive. Chris Jolly, Facilities Director, will review the studies, evaluate them and will then bring them back to the committee for input before making recommendations to the Selectboard. It was discussed that it is the role of this committee to ask residents and businesses in Town to cut their fossil fuel usage and the Town needs to step up and be a leader by making changes in Town-owned buildings the priority, and make sure it is included in the Town Plan.

**School Energy Usage** – Catherine reported that she had met with Roger Murphy who is the faculty advisor for the Environmental Club at Stowe High School regarding how the Energy Committee can work with the Club. She suggested meeting with the co-leaders of the club to discuss student interests, have conversations on what the Club and the Energy Committee are working on, and see if they can come up with any joint projects. Catherine is hoping she will be able to have a meeting with them soon, and Kenan Griffith, student representative, will be able to bring more updates to future meetings.

**Electric Mowing Equipment** – Cap noted that in previous meetings with Town Manager Charles Safford, he had been supportive of the idea of moving to electric mowers, and it had been tentatively added to the equipment fund. However with David Danforth taking over as the Parks Superintendent there has been a more conservative approach to electric mowers, as well as concerns from Charles regarding inflationary cost increases. It was discussed that the committee should continue to push for at least one electric mower to be purchased this year, including scheduling another meeting with Charles and to request time before the Selectboard

to discuss their concerns. Catherine will draft a position statement that the Committee can then endorse and send to Charles and the Selectboard.

### **Energy Committee Outreach**

**Survey** – At the last meeting Liz requested that committee members send her 1-2 questions they felt should be included on the survey. Catherine also revised a version of the Barre Energy Committee survey, which is mostly focused on renewable energy and transportation. The Committee discussed that the intention of the survey is to let Town residents know about the committee, gather feedback on programs they have offered to date, and gauge interest in future topics/projects. They would also like to use the survey to ask people if they would like to volunteer or otherwise be engaged in energy initiatives.

**Resilient Climate Economy Communities Grant** – Liz reported that the deadline was quickly approaching and didn't think the committee would have the time to apply, and felt it might be better to coordinate in the future with surrounding towns.

### **Other Business**

**Coffee & Climate Conversation** – There will be a discussion on October 31<sup>st</sup> at 8:30am at Woodland Bakery with Joanna Miller of the Climate Council.

**November Meeting Date** – The November meeting as scheduled will fall on Thanksgiving. The committee agreed to move the meeting up a week to 11/17/22. Tasha Wallace of Lamoille County Planning Commission will attend to talk about federal money for funding energy projects in Towns.

**VCANN Conference** – will take place in December, this is an online meeting of all energy committees across the State with a number of workshops and discussions. Liz will send out a link.

**Selectboard Transportation Study** – The Selectboard recently approved a high-level analysis study of traffic in Stowe, which will be an ongoing topic.

**Clean Energy Improvement Grant for Schools** – this may be an opportunity for the schools to apply for this grant. Committee will send to the Superintendent and possibly the Environmental Club for their support, as well as the School Board.

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