

Stowe Energy Committee Minutes

August 24, 2023

Draft

Present: Chair Catherine Cawley, Marina Meerburg, Elizabeth Soper, Robi Artman-Hodge and Julia Biedermann

Victoria Hellwig and Megan Rhodier of LCPC

Absent: Cap Chenoweth

Meeting called to order a 5:30 pm.

Review and Approve Minutes

Minutes of July 27, 2023 were approved as presented on a motion by Marina, seconded by Robi.

Municipal Energy Resilience Program

Victoria Hellwig explained the MERP program being offered through the Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services to assist municipalities improve energy resilience of municipally owned buildings. The Town is applying to conduct a Level 2 assessment of one or more of several municipally-owned buildings: Akeley Memorial, Ski Museum, and the Library. Once the buildings –are assessed, the Town can apply for up to \$500,000 to implement what was discovered and recommended in the report. It has not yet been determined by the Town which building(s) would best be suited for assessment under the program. Hellwig said implementation has not been hashed out yet but the Town should be able to cherry pick the improvements recommended. The timing of the program, which is being funded by ARPA, is still in question. Hellwig said as the Town was awarded the a \$4,000 mini-grant through the program, the Town can use staff or a consultant to help officials prioritize and organize energy efficient options.

Outreach Program by Department of Public Service

Lamoille County Planning Commission has been coordinating with other groups throughout the State in scheduling public engagements to hear about what local counties think about and want in renewable energy and clean electricity and what their priorities are. There is one event scheduled for September 13 and they are looking to schedule another in September. Hellwig asked the Committee if they would be willing to co-host such an event.

Megan Rhodier suggested a meeting and asked if one or two Energy Committee members would participate. Catherine said it was a great idea and offered the use of the Committee meeting on September 28th to co host. On a motion by Elizabeth, seconded by Robi the Committee agreed to co host a public engagement session via a hybrid meeting at the regular Energy Committee time on September 28, 2023 with LCPC and the Dept of Public Service.

Survey

Catherine said the survey was in its last week with 127 responses. She will be sending the results to the Committee and put the discussion on the October 26th meeting agenda.

Other Business

The Town will advertise for the seat vacated by Rick but its up to Committee members to reach out to those they feel might be interested.

Wendy from Window Dressers is looking for shift supervisors. Catherine mentioned that it is a good way for students to get community service hours. Julia said she would get the word out. Robi mentioned Habitat for Humanity may be a good option for assistance.

Button Up Vermont – Being held four Wednesdays in October. Catherine proposed posting on FPF to get the word out and remind people about it. On a motion by Elizabeth, seconded by Robi the Committee approved the use of FPF and Stowe Reporter to help get the word out about Button Up Vermont program.

Highway Garage Boiler – The Selectboard approved the replacement of the 30 year old oil furnace. There was discussion between Cap and Chris Jolly regarding an energy efficient replacement but it was determined that due to timing and costs, it will be replaced by another oil furnace.

LCPC Regional Plan -A public hearing was held on the proposed regional plan update recently. Catherine said the energy section's proposed revisions were good and that they strengthened the regional plan. She urged the members to take a look at the revisions.

SED Energy Awareness – Elizabeth and Robi attended the meeting and said it was well attended and attendees were excited about plans and the revitalization of Moscow village.

There being no further business to conduct, Catherine adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm.