

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

Present: Catherine Crawley, Sarah Evans, Cap Chenoweth, Elizabeth Soper, Scott Weathers, Rick Weinstein, Michael Lazorchak (Stowe Electric), Marina Meerburg, Jessica Williams (Window Dressers), Will & Becca Havemayer (Mileaway House)

Meeting called to order at: 5:45 p.m.

### **Window Dressers**

Michael Lazorchak introduced a pilot project he is working on through Stowe Electric Department (SED) with a company called Window Dressers out of Maine. They install inserts into buildings where the owners or tenants cannot afford to replace the windows but would like more energy efficiency. Michael noted that through SED he is focusing on small commercial buildings, but Window Dressers primarily focuses on low-income homeowners for their "Community Builds." Jessica Williams of Window Dressers gave more information on the company, their programs and how a Community Build would be structured with a Leadership Team. Michael reported that the cost is approximately \$100 per window and he was working with Efficiency Vermont, but it was unclear at this time if they would provide funding. He currently has three businesses interested and would like to have 6-8 total.

### **Whole-Building Electrification**

The Committee spoke with Will and Becca Havemayer, who are currently renovating the former Mileaway House on Mountain Road with a goal of making the house 100% electric with LED lights, electric appliances, etc. They said they do have a propane generator for backup power, but otherwise the house is as green as possible. They would like to connect with other green builders in the area.

### **Review & Approve Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes of November 18, 2021. Cap Chenoweth noted two corrections regarding ebikes, which Catherine Crawley noted.

On a motion by Elizabeth Soper, seconded by Scott Weathers, the Committee approved the minutes as amended. Marina Meerburg abstained as she was not at that meeting.

### **Energy Walkthrough Report**

Scott Weathers drafted the Energy Walkthrough Report to be submitted to local media. There were many thanks for writing this up, and no corrections or changes to be made.

On a motion by Marina Meerburg, seconded by Scott Weathers, the Committee approved sending the report to the Stowe Reporter and posting it online on Front Porch Forum.

### **2022 Committee Work Plan**

Catherine Crawley suggested a number of items to be worked on during the 2022 year. This included Window Dressers, Button-Up/Weatherization of the Akeley Memorial Building, Transportation, EBikes, and the Town Energy Plan.

It was suggested that the committee form three-person subcommittee workgroups to tackle specific tasks. Marina Meerburg, Cap Chenoweth and Sarah Evans agreed to work on Transportation, with a focus on encouraging use of buses in town – both the Mountain Road Shuttle and School Buses – as well as looking into electric buses for the future.

Elizabeth Soper, Rick Weinstein and Catherine Crawley will work on revisions to the Town Energy Plan. The Committee has been invited to meet with the Planning Commission in March, and at that point, the Energy Committee could share its revisions to the Energy Plan if ready.

Catherine also said that she had Elizabeth had recently met with representatives from Stowe Land Trust, the Planning Commission and the Conservation Commission for discussions on the State Climate Action and where their interests and goals intersect. She indicated that this was productive and would continue.

Michael spoke to the idea of Strategic Planning between the committee and SED, to align goals and assure they are not doubling up on work.

Sarah Evans reported that she had worked with the maintenance department at Stowe High School to look at energy efficient lighting. She stated that an electrician had done a walk-through of the school and suggested changing to LED lighting over the next few years. They have started with a trial in two rooms, and are looking at the auditorium within the next school year.

On a motion by Elizabeth, seconded by Cap, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.