

## Stowe Energy Committee Minutes; Thursday, January, 28th 2021, 5:30 pm

Present: Tom Jackman, Catherine Crawley, Liz Soper, Cap Chenowith, Rick Weinstein, Marina Meerburg, Scott Weathers, Sarah Evans, Michael Lazorchak (Guest - Stowe Electric)

Catherine called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm

### Minutes:

December minutes were approved on the basis of a quick revision suggested by Cap.

### Project Updates:

Catherine attended Monday's Selectboard meeting and noted the agenda item about a survey for the town. Agreed among the committee members to postpone our Town survey of residents and to include transportation-related questions.

Catherine updated the Committee on the Stowe Electric Commission's December meeting and agenda item of "Next Era Energy SMW Solar Project, which is to be sited in Rutland due to cost savings. It was reported that it will cost 25% less than the Nebraska Valley solar project. Michael expanded on the project, which will generate just under 5-megawatts and meet Tier II requirements for the utility. Stowe currently does not have the capacity to do a solar project of this magnitude.

Rick updated the group about Vermont legislative activity and policy. The Vermont Climate Council had its most recent meeting on 1/25. Four subcommittees were formed, which will include appointments of non-members. Bill H-94, the Transportation Modernization Act looks at more funding for e-bikes, incentives for electric vehicles. Gov. Scott's budget proposal includes a \$25 million weatherization package and \$10 million to small-scale renewable energy low-income Vermonters.

Catherine submitted a column to the Stowe Reporter on the weatherization project at Stonybrook, which they are considering for publication

Scott updated the group on the e-bike project. February we will start brainstorming the outline of our campaign and involvement. Scott will reach out to Local Motion about marketing and promotional aspects they have to help small towns promote this opportunity.

Sarah updated the group on incorporating Stowe Electric and their partnership with VEEP into the Stowe High School science curriculum, further discussion with science teachers and the principal. Sarah will write a column about what is going on at the high school with SED and VEEP in our physics and APES curriculum for the 2021-2022 school year this summer.

Cap suggested we consider electric lawnmowers and other eco-friendly equipment for the town, as gas-powered mowers account for 5% of the US air pollution. Tom said they don't make good commercial grade electric lawnmowers without an often battery change. Catherine will research what other towns have done and invite someone to come speak about it at our next meeting. She noted that Montpelier changed to using eco-friendly equipment a few years ago.

Catherine adjourned the meeting @ 6:40 pm

Next meeting scheduled for February 25th @ 5:30 pm

Sarah Evans  
she/her/hers