

Stowe Energy Committee Minutes; Thursday, March 25th, 2021, 5:30 pm

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

Catherine called the meeting to order @ 5:32

Minutes were approved unanimously.

Stowe Electric 2021 Incentives Presented by Michael Lazorchak, Manager of Regulatory Affairs at SED:

Michael went over the tier 3 SED budget for 2021 and explained the 2.7% tier 3 goal for megawatt savings. Some important points with the tier 3 budget include the incentives for both commercial and residential electric lawnmowers, e-bikes, along with the \$250 additional incentive for low-mod income brackets.

Traveling E-Bike Lending Library:

Selectboard unanimously approved the MOU - signed by town. Cap updated the group on the e-bike lending library. Cap talked with Luke at AJs about hosting the e-bikes. AJs has agreed to host the bikes. All paperwork and promotion will be done by SEC along with organizing a schedule with the names and dates of the people using the e-bikes. Discussed a possible demo-day to get interest in this event. Liz suggested the committee create a subcommittee that focuses on marketing and promotional aspects for the e-bike initiative. Scott made a motion on this topic— Marina seconded the motion. Cap, Scott, and Catherine agreed to be on this working committee, Liz and Marina are willing to help.

Mow Electric Campaign:

Cap updated this group on the mow electric campaign. Cap met with Burlington Parks and Rec who bought 4-5 e-mowers from Mean Green Commercial Mowers with extended battery life (8 hours). There were programming problems the first week of use, but after the first week, there were few maintenance issues which in turn saved their Parks and Rec committee money. Bruce Godin with Stowe Parks and Rec during his discussion with Cap said he was open to using electric for smaller devices (weed whackers, leaf blowers). Discussed getting an electric mower to use in and around town, rather than getting one for the fields, to bring attention to less noise pollution.

Discussed approaching the Selectboard to discuss the budget for the next fiscal year to look at a larger budget for electric lawn care equipment. Liz brought up writing an article for the Stowe Reporter around a possible switchover to electric mowers or lawn care equipment. Scott volunteered to write said article as a part of one to acknowledge/celebrate Earth Day, April 22.

Discussed the Neighbor-to-Neighbor demo program and the possibility of using Front Porch Forum to ask Stowe residents who use or are interested in e-lawn equipment. Cap volunteered to talk with Stowe Hardware to see if they carry such equipment. Tabled to continue the discussion at a future meeting.

Scott volunteered to draft April's column in the Stowe Reporter promoting local events coming up.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:45 pm

Next meeting is on April 22nd, 5:30 pm via Zoom