

**Stowe Energy Committee:** Thursday, May 28th, 2020, 5:30pm

AGENDA:

**1. Approve Minutes:** All members had read the minutes before the meeting and agreed on approval. Sarah Evans agreed to do minutes for this meeting, as this was voted to be a rotating position.

**2. Updates From Committee Members:** Catherine Crawley updated the group.

(1) Peter resigned from the committee, the committee will have a quorum. Cap is not able to attend this meeting.

(2) Attended Lamoille County Town Energy Committee. Explained: Good resource for Stowe's committee, along with Efficiency Vermont is a good resource for us to use, they offer tools and resources for town energy meetings.

(3) There is a bill moving through the House to broaden from electricity usage to electric vehicles, heating, etc. Call/write to Senator Westman and Heidi Scheuremann (she is on this committee)

(4) Attended Waterbury Leap, webinar on electric vehicles hosted by Drive Electric Vermont. Discussion: (Liz Soper) Offer the recording of the webinar to Stowe's people (post on Front Porch Forum?)

**3. Updates From Stowe Electric Department:** Catherine updated the group on discussion with SED. We will continue to keep lines of communication open, discussion about offering more incentives for customers to be more energy efficient. SED willing to attend a future meeting. Catherine read email from Ellen Burt (General Manager of SED), included in email were incentives available: Cold climate keeping pumps, electric vehicles, heat pumps, wood stoves, rebate for public electric vehicle charging station

Catherine and Liz brought up doing a public presentation of what's available by Stowe Electric and Efficiency Vermont. Liz Soper suggested alternative options would be to do an article in Stowe Reporter, or Sarah Evans suggested a webinar.

Further discussion on an article in Stowe Reporter, it would be about SEC and goals, along with incentives with utility companies. Do research on these utilities (Include Morrisville Water and Light, Green Mountain Electric with Stowe Electric) get facts/information about how many houses are with each company (Liz Soper will take this on)

Liz Soper brought up doing something at the high school with Stowe Electric, performing an environmental audit.

**4. Discussion of Town Plans/Energy and Action Items:** Catherine Crawley started the discussion while Tom Jackman presented his screen to the group of the document with the town's energy plans and action items.

Catherine Crawley: See what the town spends on maintaining those vehicles, running those vehicles, compared to electric lawn mowers

Liz Soper: Invest in one machine, test run an electric lawn mower, along with possibly using information from other towns and their success with electric lawn mowers

Tom Jackman: Review cost of mowers, how long they can run, money saved, etc. and write up a well thought out proposal for the town. Anything that is a capital investment is not the best idea right now with the financial hit and new projects for the town (route 100 repave)

Rick: Where would the electricity come from for these? Nebraska Valley solar farm?

Liz Soper: With all of the private mowers, personal mowers, landscaping companies, etc. Continue research on this and get more information out to the town's citizens. Do more to understand where the town is at with different "modernizing" projects, such as changing light bulbs, look into heat efficiency

Liz Soper brought up #15 "Why are getting EV certificates more expensive compared to Morrisville and Waterbury?"

Tom Jackman and Liz Soper brought up solar farms efficiency, discussion about a proposal of a cost/benefit analysis

Liz Soper suggested starting a web page, facebook group for SEC to give more information on the committee and what is working. Discussion: Catherine Crawley added it would be very hard to maintain. Sarah agreed with Liz, suggesting some form of online presence is important, a designated area for links, information, and updates. Catherine proposed getting onto VECAN with the correct information

#### **Next Steps:**

- Put together an article introducing the Stowe Energy Committee to put in Stowe Reporter (Liz will head this project)
  - Put Waterbury Leap Electric Vehicles webinar on Front Porch Forum
  - Stay in contact with Stowe Electric Department
  - Pick an action item for next meeting to further research and discuss
- Next meeting will be the last Thursday of June. **Thursday, June 25th, 2020, at 5:30pm** location to be determined

**5. Adjourn:** Catherine asked if there were any final topics of discussion. As there were none Catherine suggested a motion to adjourn, Liz motioned, Sarah seconded. **Meeting adjourned at 6:42pm**