

Stowe Energy Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 24th, 2020, 5:30 pm
Minutes

1. Minutes and Updates:

- a. Catherine Crawley called the meeting to order @ 5:32 pm.
- b. Catherine Crawley introduced Scott Weathers, SEC's newest member, along with Jill Appel (StonyBrook Condos' Board) and Michael Lazorchak (Stowe Electric).
 - c. Catherine asked for an official motion, Marina motioned for Sarah to be clerk full-time, cap seconded it, a unanimous vote.
 - d. Catherine suggested re-doing introductions for new member Scott Weathers. Introductions went in order of; Cap, Rick, Marina, Sarah (clerk), Liz (vice-chair).
 - e. Review and Approve Minutes: Liz motioned to approve, Marina seconded it, all voted yes, and minutes were approved
 - f. **Jill Appel** introduced herself and went through a slideshow: She is on board with Stonybrook condominiums. She explained...
 - i.... her weatherization efforts at Stonybrook (paving a rail trail in Concord, passed the first-ever in the country single bottled water ban in Concord).
 - ii.... her successful solar projects in Concord, Massachusetts; she used high school students to help identify possible houses eligible for solar (incorporating high schoolers was very effective and engaging for the community).
 - iii.... Green Your Heat program at Stonybrook Condos: this includes energy audits and weatherization efforts, focused on homes with propane and oil heat, used infra-red imaging truck to generate a list of leaky homes, used contractor Jake Robichaud for analyzing energy efficiency (44 weatherization reviews). Jill said spending money to air-seal and insulate (spray foam) was a simple fix that saved customers money.
 - iv. **Marina asked:** What is the size difference between Concord and Stowe? How can this relate to Stowe's population of full-time homeowners vs. second homeowners? **Answer:** 15,000 people in Concord (mostly full-time residents, 13,000 people can vote, around 6,000 homes), versus 4,300 people in Stowe (Stowe is now up to 75% of its population is the second homeowners).
 - v. **Rick asked:** Was there any resistance with solar panels from the board/homeowners. **Answer:** There's a resistance to spending money for the screening and also looking into solar panels they don't want them on the roofs.
 - vi. **Liz asked:** How was the \$800,000 raised for funding for these projects? **Answer:** They applied for green community status, having a Town Energy Manager is *very* useful that is the full-time staff.
7. **Michael Lazorchak** from Stowe Electric:
 - i. Suggested for the committee to come up with a specific proposal for further solar plans or ideas.
 - ii. Stowe Electric is working with the high school on a renewable energy program (Sarah will call Stowe electric to follow up about it).

E-Bike Incentives:

- iii. The utility was looking into e-bikes but turned down because of them being a hazard on the Stowe Rec Path (approach Recreation Committee about this).
4. Look into incentives if there is interest in the community so that Stowe Electric can offer rebates. Put out a quick survey on Front Porch Forum to gauge how interested people in the community would be in taking advantage of the rebates for E-Bikes.
5. E-Bikes would fall under Stowe Electric's Tier 3 program, which is down substantially because of COVID.
6. AJ's in town is offering different types of biking incentives.
7. Catherine is suggesting that we explore e-bike incentives further (Marina was also interested).
8. Rick suggested thinking about moving the timeline of e-bike incentives but Stowe electric needs to get incentives out by December or else we wait until this time next year.

2. Committee Organizing and Project Updates:

- a. The committee is using Tello to organize projects.
- b. Liz pitched getting the community more interested in it [solar], she will further the conversation with Stowe Electric about solar. Catherine asked about using Aegis Renewable Energy.
- c. Liz suggested looking further into the high school for solar panels on the roof, Sarah agreed and suggested getting the high school's environmental club involved and push this idea with the school board.
- d. Catherine also suggested for projects with the high school to include bus electrification (Maria Davies, getting bus companies grants)

Next Steps:

- Write a weatherization column in Stowe reporter.
- Rick is staying up to date with policies/legislatures. Will update the committee next meeting. (i.e. Global Warming Act Solution H.688 was majority voted in both house and senate)
- Adding contact cards to outside resources, i.e. Jill Appel and Michael Lazorchak

3. Adjourn:

- a. Marina motioned to adjourn the meeting, Liz seconded, motion passed
 - b. Catherine adjourned the meeting @ 19:05

Minutes submitted by Sarah Evans