

Stowe Energy Committee Meeting Minutes December 17th, 2020 5:30 pm

PRESENT: Catherine Crawley, Liz Soper, Marina Meerburg, Rick Weinstein, Cap Chenowith, Scott Weathers, Sarah Evans

ABSENT: Tom Jackman, Town Staff

Catherine called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm

MINUTES:

Cap motioned to approve the minutes, Rick seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

UPDATES:

Scott-

- He is taking over the e-bike project from Liz. Scott got the MOU from Local Motion on the e-bikes. We are getting the bikes in the last two weeks of June and the first two weeks of July.
- Catherine suggested doing outreach in the Spring, Stowe reporter article, host a webinar, but outreach on this project is not pertinent right now.
- Cap suggested we also include the local bike shops in Stowe in this project.

Catherine-

- VECAN conference recordings are out now, encouraged to watch. Marina did attend the Saturday portion of the VECAN conference.
- Catherine drafted the monthly column for the Stowe reporter and is getting pictures and information from Jill Appel to include, this addition of SEC's monthly column will be for January.
- The project at the arena looks like it is not going to happen, very dependent on cost for the town, look into grants.
- Rick asked if we could address the solar plan at the arena on Town Meeting Day
 - Catherine suggested a town survey to gauge town interest on this matter, make there be an incentive like Barre did for their 'Barre City Energy Survey' (linked on Trello board)
 - Liz suggested doing it through SurveyMonkey to share with residents
 - Rick and Cap will take charge of arranging questions based on Barre's survey they sent out
 - Sarah will look to include questions that are directed towards the younger generation in Stowe

Marina motioned to make a survey that would be presented at Town Meeting Day, Scott seconded it, the motion passed.

Cap- There was a VPR report on a problem with transmission lines in VT, lines coming down from Canada aren't big enough and need more voltage. Canada might implement a surge charge for those who are net metering.

Sarah- She is setting up a meeting with Principal Gretchen Muller to further discuss the educational opportunities for high schoolers with Stowe Electric and VEEP.

Marina- Stowe decided to join the communication union in Lamoille.

Thermal Solar Presentation from Cap:

- In Vermont and in Stowe, you can get 60-70% (60ish gallons) of hot water usage from thermal solar.
- Cap has lived off of solar heating pumps for 40 years, changing two parts, antifreeze protected,
- Cost basis, the tax credits have gone way down since 1986, many companies stopped producing panels after 1986
- The angle of the roof 30-45 degrees, the panels can get you around 67% of the energy from where we are on Earth's axis
- On a year-long basis, replacing the gas hot water heater with a solar system, saving \$500-\$750 a year and eventually get the payback (\$7500), the boiler isn't on, electric water heater, the gas water heater isn't on, cost-effective because of how long they last (have to replace a circulator or a controller every 15 years)
- Some houses down in southern climates require new houses to be built with thermal solar heat pumps
- You can get a solar tank for this, but can feed it into the tank you already have. This can mess up the heat sensor knowing when to produce more hot water, though.
- It's a collective production of heated water throughout the year.
- The tank would be stored in the basement, facilities room, it is an 80-gallon tank.

ACTION ITEMS:

- For all committee members; skim through VECAN conference webinar recordings.
- Rick and Cap start looking through Barre City's town survey for residents and developing similar or new questions aligned with Stowe's community.
- Sarah, also suggest questions for the energy survey being put together.
- For all committee members, skim through Stowe Electric Commission's minutes from their last meeting.

Catherine moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 pm

Next meeting (back to our normal 4th Thursday of the month): **January 28th, 2021 5:30 pm**

Minutes submitted by Sarah Evans