

**Stowe Energy Committee Meeting:** Thursday April 23, 2020 7:00 PM

**Zoom Meeting Recording:** [https://nwf-org.zoom.us/rec/share/vuNKAavK-EZIWq\\_j-HPIWqI8MLvJaaa8hCNKq\\_pYnU7G67c951LzRWANIhmY4QVq](https://nwf-org.zoom.us/rec/share/vuNKAavK-EZIWq_j-HPIWqI8MLvJaaa8hCNKq_pYnU7G67c951LzRWANIhmY4QVq)

**AGENDA:**

**Participants:** Tom Jackman, Sarah Evans, Cap Chenoweth, Liz Soper, Peter Collotta, Marina Meerburg, Rick Weinstein, Catherine Crawley.

**1. Introductions and check-in:** Since this was first Energy Committee meeting, each participant introduced themselves and provided context for why they were interested in participating on the committee.

**2. Election of Officers:** Tom Jackman began the process of conducting elections.

**Chair:** Catherine Crawley was nominated by Marina Meerburg. Peter Collotta seconded the nomination. Was no further discussion. All participants agreed and motion passed. Catherine Crawley is chair of Stowe Energy Committee.

With Catherine now elected as chair, Tom Jackman handed over meeting to her.

**Vice Chair:** Catherine asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Catherine nominated Liz Soper. Marina Meerburg seconded the motion. No discussion. All in favor. Liz Soper is Vice Chair of Stowe Energy Committee.

**Clerk:** Catherine asked for Nominations. No nominations or individuals volunteered. It was discussed that possibly this position could be a rotating position where each meeting someone would be designated to take minutes. Peter Collotta moved this as a motion. Marina Meerburg seconded. Discussion: was noted at our next meeting that we would bring this position up for discussion again but for now Committee felt comfortable with the concept of rotating clerk. Liz Soper agreed to take minutes for this meeting. Catherine asked for final agreement. All in favor. Motion passed. Elections concluded.

**3. Town COVID-19 Updates:** Tom Jackman indicated that the town was following all state/Governor orders and regulations. Different committees are meeting via Zoom. Selectboard meeting on Fridays – 1:00 pm. Town now has own Zoom account.

**4. Review and Adopt SEC Rules of Operation:** Tom Jackman asked Committee members if they all had a chance to review SEC Rules of Operation and Ethics. All had. Tom encouraged Committee members to sign last page of ethics document and send via email or mail to Abby. Catherine Crawley asked Tom about recording of meetings. Tom indicated that it is not a requirement to record, but because of Covid19 Town is recording meetings to ensure public has access and engagement. Catherine then asked the Committee to move forward with the Adoption of the SEC Rules of Operation. Marina Meerburg made a motion to adopt. Cap Chenoweth seconded. All approved. SEC Rules of Operation adopted.

**5. Discuss Committee Charge and Next Steps:** Catherine opened the floor for discussion regarding our charge and what some of the next steps might be that we want to take, particularly in regard to supporting our town and citizens during Covid19. Catherine provided input that other town Energy Committee's were looking at things such as food security through community gardens, local food options, trail work to support outside safe activity.

Liz indicated that another area that might be supportive would be to work with Stowe Electric to get information out regarding current energy incentives – support movement in energy efficiency as well as reducing economic impact of cost.

Cap suggested as well that a great way to reach citizens regarding these incentives would be to include a flyer in every monthly electric bill that speaks to incentives. He also indicated that it would be interesting for this Committee to look into and or have an advisory say in how new building projects in town are addressing energy efficiency and renewables. Catherine indicated that the Montpelier Energy Committee or NetZero Montpelier was working closely with Efficiency Vermont to support energy audits and get info out on energy efficiency and construction.

Tom Jackman mentioned that although the Stowe Energy Committee did not have a budget this year, the Conservation Commission does, and that if this Committee came up with a project that needed funding the Conservation Commission could be a source of funding.

Liz mentioned that as a Committee we should take a closer look at the existing Enhanced Town Energy Plan. Catherine mentioned that Stowe's plan is certified and it provides Stowe with increased status in deliberations with state regarding renewable projects, etc....

Committee members agreed that one of our first action items would be to review Energy Plan and have conversation at next meeting regarding which actions we could take on for next steps. Tom also mentioned that the Town 2021 budget includes a municipal facilities manager – a good resource for us.

Catherine will send out link to Energy Plan as well as the Energy Action Network 2020 Annual report which she indicated would be a good background document for review.

Marina Meerburg indicated she would like to see this Committee take on a review of Municipal buildings and options for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Sarah Evans indicated that she was interested in seeing the Committee support more work in all three schools. Sarah will be leading the Environmental Club at the high school next year and could be a good contact in getting students/schools more engaged and involved. Bring the youth voice into the process.

#### **Next Steps:**

- Catherine will send links/documents to folks for review
- Catherine will invite Stowe Electric to next meeting to present on current incentives and what utility is doing in regard to renewables and energy efficiency
- Committee members will review Town Energy Plan and other documents and prepare for discussion at next meeting.
- Committee members will sign and get Ethics document to Abby - [aearle@stowevt.gov](mailto:aearle@stowevt.gov)
- Liz will send meeting minutes to Tom and Zoom recording to Abby
- Next meeting will be last Thursday in May. **May 28, 2020 5:30 p.m.** – location to be determined.

**Adjourn:** Catherine asked if there were any further items for discussion. There were none. Marina made a motion to adjourn, Cap seconded it. All agreed. **Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.**