

Energy Committee Minutes

June 13, 2019

7 – 8:30 PM

Charlotte Town Hall

In Attendance: EC members: Matt Burke, Rebecca Foster, Suzy Hodgson, Deirdre Holmes, Ethan Lisle, Doug Paton, and John Quinney. Planning Liaison: Gerald Boucher. SB liaison: Frank Tenney. Visitor: Jamey Gerlaugh

Approved Minutes 5/1/19.

Fossil Free Jamboree. For this event, the EC will be collaborating with Charlotte Library book sale scheduled for July 21, 10 am to 3 pm on the Town green. The purpose is to celebrate and showcase fossil-fuel-free living, with a transport focus. Tents and tables have been sourced and will cost about \$800 to rent.

Planned displays will include pedal bikes and electric bikes. Local Motion will be coming with an E-bike. City Cycles from Vergennes and Bike Recycle VT have been invited. Z-Spokes is coming to provide bike tune-ups. The plan is to invite Charlotte Trails Committee and other Town committees to collaborate, e.g. if ad-hoc parking committee is formed, they'll be included. Among transport topics, it'll be important to highlight that Charlotte has lost its one bus stop. There could be way to devise a question about supporting a bus stop to start the conversation as having something to sign gets people more involved. There will be tables with info about incentives for e-vehicles, e-motors & yard tools, and weatherization liaising with Efficiency VT to be invited.

On the green, under the tent if necessary, there will be bike tuning and City Market's pedal powered smoothie making bike. This will need constant monitoring. Other table to cover gardens, yards, pollinator-friendly meadows.

Possible raffle prizes eg home energy audit, retrofit kit for bike. Purpose of raffle is to raise funds for Friends of Library for the solar portion of the library addition.

Actions:

- Matt to reach out to VTRANS and GoVermont about bus issues and public transit.
- Matt to liaise with Suzy to involve Trails Committee
- John to ask friend to bring Tesla.
- Rebecca to check with Dean about his suggestion to use Post Office parking for space for EVs.
- Doug to ask DR about raffle contribution
- John to ask Energy Co-op about energy audit raffle contribution
- Rebecca to circulate sign-up list for set up, tables/activities.

Library Addition update & solar. John provided an update of the project and proposal bid review process. Three bids were received and the two least cost were reviewed extensively. The

library bid review committee and the library committee unanimously recommended the ReArch bid and the SB approved this recommendation with total project cost of approximately \$1.192M budget (less than the amount approved by Town vote which was \$1.4M). However, project doesn't include solar. It's important that project has solar on the roof for visibility throughout the town. In this regard, John will be working with Leigh Seddon on proposal for CPG to be approved by SB to send application to PUC by the deadline before net metering rates change; as of July 1, 2019, the rate drops from 18.4 cents to 17.4 cents per kwh.

The EC agreed unanimously on the proposal to hire Leigh up to \$850 for his solar expert services.

The design process for the library addition will include charette and energy modelling and it'll be important for EC members to be involved.

Fire & Rescue Audit review. John Quinney reported back from the Thursday 8:30 am meeting about the fire and rescue audit report. At the meeting, Bruce Landry from 5 Star Energy Tech consultants presented the results of the audit to members of the Energy Committee and the Fire Station. His blower door test, infrared images, and visual inspection showed room for improvement and potential energy savings from the following:

1. Air sealing: attic penetrations, attic hatches, wall and ceiling penetrations.
2. Wood-Framed Wall (Office & Connector): dense pack cellulose
3. Attic (Office and Connector): loose fill cellulose.
4. Attic (Apparatus Bay): loose fill cellulose.
5. Attic Hatches (both buildings): poly-isocyanurate insulation.
6. Wood-Framed Wall (Apparatus Bay); dense pack cellulose.
7. Heating System alternatives: air to water heat pump to provide about 60% - 70% of the building's heating needs or pellet boiler to replace existing oil boiler or Heat Pump Water Heater
8. An energy efficient replacement HRV system

Patrice Machavern asked about how the energy efficiency improvements fit with the Town's goal of net zero energy. There was discussion about incremental vs. large-scale improvements to building envelopes and deep retrofits where upfront costs and current budgets can be barriers.

Action: John following up with consultants to provide estimates on the installation costs of the improvements so that the Fire Station can prioritize the most cost-effective measures.

Town Plan Update. The first hearing of the new town plan was June 10 (actually 4th continued meeting of 1st hearing) and the last hearing will be Aug 12, (ie 2nd hearing). It's important to ensure EC reps are present at this meeting.

Action All: check the Town website and look at maps and be familiar with preferred sites.

Weatherization & Window Dressers project with Transition Town. Jamey Gerlaugh, Transition Town and Repair Cafe provided an overview of Window Dressers (ie window insert initiative) started by a non-profit Maine-based organization.

Glover VT has organized this initiative with volunteer team including measurement team for windows which are then made remotely. For the next fall season, there is opportunity for the Town of Charlotte to be part of a five-town initiative in Vermont. Some details of program:

- Homeowners pay fully for window inserts, \$40 for avg size window
- Homeowners receive subsidized windows based on willingness/ability to pay
- About 33% of window inserts are provided free

Energize VT worked with Glover Energy Committee. Windows can last up to 10 yrs if removed in summer, re-covering service for plastic cover offered. Part of volunteer programming includes 1-2 day Community workshop to assemble the pieces of the windows. Ethan volunteered to help out with recruiting CVU Enact students for this initiative.

The EC gave their qualified support to Jamey. More information will be helpful concerning which homes/windows are best suited for this product and how do they compare with alternatives. It was suggested that Jamey set up a table at the Jamboree to show the window samples and to provide more info for potential volunteers about the program.

Action: Deirdre to liaise with Jamey about table

Town Hall Lighting Upgrades to LEDs. The Select Board via Dean has asked the EC for recommendations on lighting upgrades at the Town Hall.

Action: Doug Patton to follow up with Dean on lighting inventory and next steps.

Meeting adjourned 8:46 pm

Notes by Suzy Hodgson