

Strafford Energy and Climate Committee (SECC)
Meeting Minutes APPROVED

8/8/23
7:04 PM
Online meeting:
Zoom

Meeting called by: Dorian Yates

Type of meeting: SECC monthly meeting

Facilitator: Dorian Yates

Note taker: Jim Schley

Attendees: Dorian Yates, Susan Hodges, and David Lutz

Next Meeting: September 12, 2023, 7 pm via ZOOM

Minutes

New ACTION ITEMS from this meeting:

ACTION ITEM: **Jim** will talk to Michael Scanlan, Scott Moore, and David Harris about recycling participation in our town, and do they have thoughts about how to overcome obstacles people may perceive?

ACTION ITEM: **Matt** will be in touch with Eric Reimanis about working with the Newton School on an energy- and climate-related curriculum; **Dorian** will contact school board chair Sarah Root saying the SECC can offer advice and information for energy-efficiency planning. **Carried over from July meeting?**

ACTION ITEM: Doc recommended that we ask Vanessa Rule to attend one of our meetings and talk about 350Vermont, Gus Speth to talk about international efforts, and Rosie Kerr to talk about Dartmouth sustainability initiatives. This could potentially be a public forum, not merely for our committee. **Carried over from July meeting.**

AGENDA for this meeting:

1. Approve minutes from previous (July) meeting. Approved.

2. Discussion of survey to measure climate awareness and activity in Strafford:

DRAFT survey (obviously would be formatted properly for real time use):

The Strafford Energy and Climate Committee (SECC) is conducting this survey to better understand Strafford's carbon footprint as we work to help all of us meet the town's resolution to be net zero by 2030.

1. Are you using human-powered or electric lawn-care equipment? If not, would you consider buying and using these?

2. Do you have and are using an electric vehicle? If not, would you consider getting one?

3. Do you have an e-bike, or are you considering getting one? And if yes, how would you use it? Recreation? Commuting?

4. How do you heat your home?

5. What sources of energy do you use in your home?

Propane, oil or wood for heating?

Electricity: Conventional grid? Solar: off-grid, net-metered with a grid intertie, or community solar? Wind turbine or micro-hydro?

6. What changes have you made or are considering making to reduce your household waste and carbon impacts? For instance: Do you carpool? Use public transport? Are reducing plastic and other solid waste? Do you compost? What other actions are you taking?

Also we discussed — to be flushed out at our Sept meeting — one or two webinars that David will do in late Sept/early October about DIY solar off-grid; EV charging as back up battery/power for home; and generally living with generating less carbon.

We also discussed the importance of Coburns' store to the community and our next zero goals.

3. Intermunicipal Energy Coordinator (IREC) report for August 2, from coordinator Jeff Grout:

* Strafford was awarded a **Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP)** \$4,000 mini-grant. The check should arrive within the next few weeks.

* The MERP Energy Assessment application is now released. The Strafford Town Garage has been identified as the town building that could benefit the most from an energy update.

* Strafford's Grant Manager Stephanie Slayton is gathering the Town Garage documentation required to be submitted with the MERP grant. I am assisting her as necessary.

*The Vermont EV charging grant application has been released. If there is interest, Jeff can assist with assessing potential sites or applying for the grant. (Matt Christie suggested that good sites would be: I could see one at the park-and-ride or red-barn/Pocket-Park/playing field parking lot, or the Morrill Homestead lot, because they get visitors for blocks of time, though that's not town land.)

4. Alger Brook Road Community Solar status: Still not connected to the Green Mountain Power pole.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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