

Strafford Energy Committee (SEC) Meeting Minutes

5/10/18

7 PM

Town Office meeting room

Meeting called by: Doc Bagley

Type of meeting: SEC regular meeting

Facilitator: Doc Bagley

Note taker: Jim Schley

Attendees: Doc Bagley, Janet Cavanagh, Kevin Grady, David Lutz, Barbara Smith, Jim Schley

Next Meetings: — Doc and Kevin will meet to go over Chris Damiani's work from Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) meeting held Thursday May 3 at 6:30 PM in Town Office meeting room – Next meeting with TRORC in June TBD

— June 12 @ 7pm is next Energy Committee meeting @ Town Office 2nd floor

Minutes

Agenda item: **Approval of 4/17/18 Minutes** and review of Action Items. **Presenter:** Doc

Agenda item: **Complaint about inverter noise at the Mine site.** **Presenter:** Doc
In response to a neighbor's complaint on the list-serve, Dori suggested that the Energy Committee respond.

Discussion: Action Item: The Committee feels that this is the company's responsibility, and Doc will convey that to Dori and also to Kate Siepmann, SEC / Selectboard liaison

Agenda item: **Relationship with Select Board** **Presenter:** Doc

Discussion: Action Item: Doc will let Kate know that the Energy Committee will be giving the Selectboard regular updates on our projects and activities.

Agenda item: **Energy Committee Roundtable** **Presenter:** Janet, Kevin, David, Jim

Discussion: Those who attended enjoyed hearing about six representative Energy Committees, introductions of Contractor-Sponsors, and then a hard-hitting discussion about energy burdens and economic justice. Ideas we brought back: Lyme spoke about neighbor-to-neighbor recruiting of participants for weatherization, and how a foundation in their town gave a grant to subsidize home audits; Claremont and Lebanon presented on city-scale energy efficiency efforts; New London described their annual electric vehicle fair; Thetford presented on the Strafford-Thetford Community Solar. All the presenters are putting materials on Vital Communities website: <http://vitalcommunities.org/energy/>

Agenda item: **Weatherization** **Presenter:** Doc

Discussion: We're reaffirming that along with transportation, this is now a priority area for our committee. The Vital Communities "Weatherize" campaign is for everybody, not only low-income households. In addition we want to effective outreach to people in our community who are suffering from energy burdens in ways that audits and weatherizing can help solve, if they're given assistance with the applications and organizing. How do we identify those who have greatest need? Resources and allies: Deacons of United Church (Becky Bailey, Gretchen Hannon), Randy Coffin for Neighbor Helping Neighbor, Chrissy and Sue Coburn for food shelf at the store, the Senior Lunch. We need a simple-to-read and understand flyer that we can use to invite people to let the Energy Committee know that they would like to know more about energy-saving measures. As we said in our previous meeting, the message needs to be very direct: "Did you spend more than \$400 annually on heating your home? Would you like to save up to 20%?" Could we have an Energy Committee float or booth for the July 7 Parade?"

Action Items: To explore outreach to low-income townspeople, Jim will talk to Becky for the Deacons; Janet will talk to Randy Coffin. Janet will get more Capstone (Orange County) brochures. Janet will

also look into “Button Up” workshop availability. David will put a notice on the List-Serve inviting all EV owners (cars, bikes, scooters) to contact him about participating in the parade. Doc will reach out to Tunbridge, Chelsea, and Vershire to see if they’re open to collaborating on the next Vital Communities campaign. Janet will talk to Jason and Gretchen about a questionnaire that we can use at the Recycling/Transfer Station: “How do you heat your home? Do you spend more than \$400 / \$800 / \$1,200 per year? Are you interested in learning about free and low-cost energy improvements that can be made in your home?”

Agenda item: Car-pool and Van-pool planning **Presenter: David**

David is investigating options using the system promoted by Go! Vermont (<https://www.connectingcommuters.org/>) to set up regular routes to increase ride-sharing by mid-summer.

Agenda item: Enhanced Energy Planning update **Presenter: Doc**

Discussion: Doc has added to the GoogleDocs some additional Solar and Wind maps that Steve Willbanks provided. Chris feels that the revised plan could be completed by end of June, with the mapping component perhaps not quite done.

Action Items: Kevin will talk to Micki Colbeck about the mapping. Doc will ask the people in Thetford why they aren’t counting the mine solar project at all in their Enhanced Energy Plan (though they’re splitting the tax benefits with Strafford). One puzzle about the Elizabeth Mine array is that its capacity is 7 MW, but it’s capped at 5 MW for the utility, so is there excess power that’s being wasted? Doc will ask Dori about this. Kevin and Doc will meet on Thursday, May 17 to go over Chris’s latest revised document.

Agenda item: Changes to the net-metering rules **Presenter: Doc**

Discussion: Net effect of reduction for releasing Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to the utility amounts to \$750 reduction over ten years. Solar industry in Vermont is experiencing a set-back not an advance.

Agenda item: Energy Committee website **Presenter: Doc**
Ongoing.

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Schley.