
Meeting called by: Dorian Yates

Type of meeting: SECC monthly meeting

Facilitator: Dorian Yates

Note taker: Jim Schley

Attendees: Dorian Yates, Susan Hodges, Jim Schley, Doc Bagley, and David Lutz; Trudi Brock joined for part of the meeting

Next Meeting: October 10, 2023, 7 pm via ZOOM

Minutes

New ACTION ITEMS from this meeting:

ACTION ITEM: Dorian will post the **Saturday, September 23 [Vital Communities Affordable Energy Resource Fair](#)** event on the list serve this week, and Jim will post this the week leading up to the event.

ACTION ITEM: Dorian will post a notice about the **Saturday, September 30 [Upper Valley EV Expo](#)** event on the list-serve this week and during the week leading up to the event.

ACTION ITEM: Susan H. offered to do an updated draft of the survey including the formatting.

AGENDA for this meeting:

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

2. Review & update re: Action items from last 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? **Done, and to be continued.**

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? "Work in process."**

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.
Discussed at September meeting.

3. Upcoming events:

* **Empower VT Campaign Kickoff Event: Green and Just Electricity for VT 101**
<https://350vt.nationbuilder.com/empowervtkickoff> on **September 21, 2023 at 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm.**

* **Vital Communities Second Affordable Energy Resource Fair**
<https://vitalcommunities.org/events/affordable-energy-resource-fair-2/> on **Saturday, September 23.**
 With partners Efficiency VT, Button Up, COVER Home Repair, The Haven, and LISTEN Community Services and more! With information from Community Action Agencies for all towns.
When: 11 am – 2 pm (Setup 10–11am, breakdown 2–3 pm) *(partial attendance is still helpful!)*
Where: [LISTEN Center Community Dining Hall in WRJ](#)

Anna Guenther has sent this list of opportunities to help at the event:

Be an extra person on hand to help with event logistics

Give out free weatherization supplies (ideal for someone who is a handy-person or a DIY expert!)

Help give out groceries and meals

Give out information about state and federal fuel assistance and other assistance programs

I am especially looking for folks who are able to give out our free DIY Weatherization materials (window plastic, pipe insulation, caulk insulation, stick-on and screw-on door sweeps, etc) with advice on how best to use them.

To help promote the event, please post on your town list-serve:

SUBJECT LINE: Get Energy Help Saturday September 23

Want to save energy AND money this winter?

The Affordable Energy Resource Fair provides a one-stop shop for Do-It-Yourself Weatherization materials, information on Weatherization assistance and rebate programs, utility bill (electricity, fuel, water) state and town assistance programs, and material resources to be more comfortable in the coming cold temperatures. Whether you are unhoused or marginally housed, a renter, or homeowner, this event has resources for you. Speak with experts on energy help programs for New Hampshire and Vermont residents and get free DIY weatherization materials.

Saturday, Sept 23, drop in between 11 am and 2 pm

LISTEN Community Dinner Hall

42 Maple St. White River Junction, VT

FREE – NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

ACTION ITEM: Dorian will post the Vital Communities notice on the list-serve this week, and Jim will post this the week leading up to the event.

* [Upper Valley Electric Vehicle Expo](#): **Saturday, September 30**, behind the Lebanon City Hall.

ACTION ITEM: Dorian will post the Upper Valley EV Expo notice on the list-serve this week and the week leading up to the event.

* Susan reported: Also on **Saturday, September 30** is a “Repair Fair” at the Recycling Center in South Royalton: The Sharon Energy Committee, BALE, and Kimball Library are hosting this, from 9 am until noon at the **Royalton Transfer Station** (122 Waterman Rd.).

* **“Burning or Burrowing”** is the beginning of a community conversation about how we get the energy to heat our homes, schools and community buildings.

Bethel Elementary/Middle School

Thursday, October 5

5:00 dinner, 5:30 – 7:00 conversation

From Jill Wilcox:

Please contact the town leaders, school boards and state legislators in your town and encourage them to attend. These elected leaders are more likely to respond if they hear directly from their own constituents rather than from me.

Please invite members of your town and community as well. The more people from the general public who attend, the greater the impact will be upon our elected leaders.

Share this information on Front Page Forum or other list serve in your community.

4. Coburns’ Store: There are about 45 people on an email list of those who actively interested; about 7 are now on a steering committee. They have been conferring with Ben Doyle who has helped four towns in Vermont set up community trusts that have bought stores around Vermont.

Moving toward a “Community Supported Business” model. They are planning site visits to the four other stores; will be getting a building inspection done, and a business viability assessment.

Preservation Trust of Vermont will be organizing a bus trip to visit other stores that have been purchased by community trusts: **Friday, October 13**. (East Calais, Elmore, _____, and Albany). Contact Trudi Brock for more information or to get involved: brock.kri@gmail.com

5. Continue work on Climate Impact Survey:

Strafford Climate Action made some comments, etc to the draft survey:

* The survey should state clearly at the top the purpose of the survey and what will be done with the results. And especially should not sound judgmental! Some people may not participate if their name is attached . . .

* Other thoughts: Reduction is part of the solution, but not pointing fingers. Wondering how to reach people who “don’t care”... Not sure how to incorporate the idea of reduction, of buying less, etc.

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? *Maybe list some choices? And maybe use the word "replacing" instead of buying?*
2. Do you have and are you using an electric vehicle? If not, would you consider getting one? *Maybe ask what would help you consider this?*
3. Do you have an e-bike, or are you considering getting one? And if yes, how would you use it? Recreation? Commuting? *Using it instead of your car?*
4. How do you heat your home? *(of course include multiple choices)*
5. What sources of energy do you use in your home?
propane? oil? electricity? - solar- off-grid; net-meter; community solar; grid; wind; micro-hydro
6. What changes have you made or are considering making to reduce your household waste and carbon such as, do you carpool? use public transport? reduce plastic waste? compost? other? *Maybe this should be the FIRST question? And rewritten as: Have you made . . . any changes . . . ?*

Discussion of ways to make this accessible and not intimidating and also informative. Doc recommended check boxes instead of blank lines.

ACTION ITEM: Susan H. offered to do an updated draft of the survey including the formatting.

6. Sub-committee and other reports: monthly updates, if any:

Transportation: David reported that Dartmouth is installing the first Solaflect tracker / EV charging station in two weeks, for four cars.

Weatherization / home heating / construction: Doc & Matt Jim reported that WindowDressers will host a community build October 20-26 Vershire-Chelsea-Corinth; the United Church of Strafford will be getting 14 inserts for the newer part of the building; the will also be the new base for the town's community nurse,.

Community Solar/renewables: Doc reported that the Alger Brook Road Community Solar is now fully operational as of September 8; Doc had noticed that only a portion of the inverters were actually on, but they got that fixed. New LLC officers: Ed Huang is president, Suzanna Leipmann is treasurer, and Lorenz Rutz will be secretary. The annual meeting will be each October. There will be some kind of ribbon-cutting in October, and the sign can be installed. The Law School Energy Clinic will remain available if there are legal issues they can help with.

Only task that remains for Catamount is site clean-up and grading, and getting Orgains' wireless engaged for monitoring the output.

Agriculture, forestry: Susan H. reported that the monthly sessions of pulling barberry with hand tools has worked out very well; county forester and Ashley Forest board member David Paganelli has been very pleased by how much was accomplished without chemical herbicides.

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

* Worked with Strafford Grants Manager Stephanie Slayton to collect the documentation required for the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) building assessment and submitted the application for the Strafford Town Garage.

* The Town of Strafford's MERP assessment application is complete and all required documentation has been submitted. The first round of MERP assessments was released last week and the next round is expected to be released in one to two months.

* The new community solar site is coming on-line soon. Doc Bagley is providing regular updates to the members. The wet weather has caused a number of delays, but it looks like this could be the month that it comes online.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm. Next meeting is October 10, 2023 via Zoom.