Shelburne Energy Committee – Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 16 at 7pm

Present: Tom Johnson, George Boettner, Pat Stevenson, Andrew Baker

Absent: John Walsh

Guest: Robin Pease – Buildings Manager, Mohawk Trail Regional School

**Minutes**: Approved meeting minutes of Nov. 18 meeting unanimously.

**Presentation by Robin Pease re Mohawk district energy work**: Robin reported that Mohawk has done a number of energy related improvements over the past 4 years. These included LED lights installations, installation of sensors in classrooms for better heat control and boiler controls, and COVID-related ventilation improvements that included nighttime setbacks of air handling equipment.

LED savings are showing up mainly in not having to buy a lot of fluorescent bulbs and ballasts. KW savings were absorbed in the first few years by repaying the loan but will now be showing up as electric savings this year. No data yet.

Robin described the boiler replacement project at BSE that Mohawk has received capital spending approval from Shelburne and Buckland for about $175,000. Current plan is for an engineer to begin designing a new oil fired system in January. The committee asked whether it might be possible to explore feasibility of an air source heat pump heating/cooling system, or perhaps a hybrid system in which the larger spaces would be oil heated and the classrooms & offices served by mini-splits. The mini-splits could be funded by a competitive round Green Communities grant. Robin will ask her engineer whether mini-splits are worth exploring for classrooms. Andrew will contact Mark Rabinsky and float this as a possible Green Communities competitive grant project. Tom asked whether there is an electric boiler option to replace the oil fired boiler.

Tom thought that Mark’s priority idea for Shelburne is mini-splits for the Highway Garage. The Green Communities grant RFP is coming out in January. Timeline will be short.

Robin also described the Solar proposal presented by Power Options/Solect to install 500kw of roof mounted solar. Robin mentioned that Eversource may limit the scale of the project to 200kw because of limits on their service infrastructure, but Power Options encouraged Mohawk to bargain for a larger system. Mohawk will also need to give notice to its current electricity supplier – Direct Energy – to avoid or reduce penalties for ending the contract before its term.

Mohawk has 3 brand new Lochinvar propane boilers – German made – that are 98% efficient.

**Email Address**: Tom is setting up a new email address – Energy@townofshelburnema.gov that we will use to access MEI data.

**Cowell Gym**: Tom reported that the energy systems options study is still not finished. Passed over.

**MassSAVE grant application:** Submitted as a $15,400 grant serving 20 households per year for 3 years.

**Membership:** Tom said we have capacity for 7 members and now have 5. Committee members will keep eyes peeled for knowledgeable and interested Shelburne residents who may wish to serve on our committee and discuss possible additions to our membership at our next meeting.

**Adjourned** at 8:20 pm