Shelburne Energy Committee Meeting Minutes June 09, 2022 7:00 pm

Present Tom Johnson, Pat Stevenson, John Walsh, George Boettner, ,

Also Present Cynthia Boettner, Allison Gage from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), Zara Dowling from the UMass Clean Energy Extension (CEE)

Tom Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7;10pm, Pat Stevenson moved, George Boettner 2nd, All in Favor

John Walsh volunteered to take minutes

**New Business**

FRCOG Proposal to Add School District’s Energy Consumption and Savings to Shelburne Energy Reduction Green Communities program

Allison Gage from FRCOG was present to discuss adding the Mohawk Trail Regional School District’s (MTRSD) energy consumption to the Shelburne Energy Reduction Plan as part of the Green Communities (GC) designation and goals for the high school and elementary school. Discussion included the pros and cons of adding the information to town quarterly and annual reporting requirements. Allison explained that the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) is interested in working with regional school districts and is hoping to add the districts energy consumption to be tracked by the Town. Allison reported she has had discussions with the Town of Buckland to consider the same proposal. She did report that there would be a significant increase to the Town’s baseline energy consumption but DOER would likely take any increase and possible fewer annual savings from the Town’s energy efficiency goals under consideration, but we should check with Mark Rabinsky to verify. Consumption would be multiplied by the Town’s percentage/100 towards the overall budget for MTRSD and savings would be applied accordingly.

John Walsh stated he was concerned about the fact that the 2 buildings discussed are wholly owned by MTRSD and that the committee has no input as to energy saving projects at either school. Further discussion included asking if the school superintendent, as well as the building manager have been contacted and try to determine what the actual impact would be to Shelburne’s GC numbers.

The committee agreed to continue pursuing the concept and we will have further discussions at the July meetings.

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Energy Pilot Program (REPP) Grant

Zara Dowling from the UMass Clean Energy Extension was present to follow-up on the accepted grant application which the Committee agreed to join in a previous meeting. The grant was accepted as number 14 of over 80 other applications and CEE is looking to see if Shelburne will move onto the next stage of application process. Discussion included the fact that neither the Committee members nor the Town has the ability to dedicate persons to write a business plan. Zara explained that at this stage it was looking as if that would not be required. Further discussion included potential sites for a solar installation as well as what entities could benefit as off takers to reduce their energy consumption. The Town as well as the Franklin Regional Housing Authority (also a potential partner in the final grant application) were mentioned.

The committee agreed to continue looking into the matter and George Boettner agreed to be primary contact for Zara. We also agreed that the Town Administrator, Terry Narkowitz and the Selectboard should be updated on the proposal. It appears the next deadline is July 18 for signing on to the next phase.

Old Business

John Walsh reported that there was a data request by the Cowell Gym Green Communities Grant review team for additional information concerning the impact of cooling of the gym on electricity consumption. John provided a back of the envelope calculation which was then confirmed by Energy Resources who prepared the original calculations.

Community First Grant Update

Cynthia provided an update of her activities which was attached to the meeting agenda. Cynthia and Pat provided an update on outreach activities and other interactions

Cynthia discussed a phone contact with Trinity Solar who contacted Cynthia through Terry Narkowitz, (Town Administrator) about doing a door-to-door campaign to install solar panels on residents’ roofs. The committee discussed whether it has the right to ask them not to proceed as well as any negative consequences to our efforts if we decide to do neighborhood outreach. In the end we asked Cynthia to ask the person who contacted her to get in touch with Tom and explain that while we cannot stop them, we would request that they delay their efforts until the future.

Pat discussed postponing the postcard writing with the high school as we do not have a readily available list to focus the mailing. It will be postponed until the fall. Contact has been made with the Arms library as well as the senior center and events will be discussed in the future with both organizations.

No additional old business was discussed

Motion was made to adjourn at 8:23 pm, Pat Stevenson moved, George Boettner 2nd. All voted in favor.